

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN-NORTH BROOKLYN
INCLUDING CARROLL GARDENS, COBBLE HILL, BOERUM HILL, DUMBO, WILLIAMSBURG AND GREENPOINT

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Bruce Ratner has pulled out of a plan Brooklyn's tallest building.

RATNER KILLS MR. BROOKLYN

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Developer Bruce Ratner has pulled out of a deal with City Tech that could have netted him hundreds of millions of dollars and allowed him to build the city's tallest residential tower, the so-called Mr. Brooklyn. The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

"It was a mutual decision," said a key executive at the City University of New York, which would have paid Ratner \$300 million for a new dormitory and lab for City Tech, and given him a prime plot at the corner of Tillary and Jay streets where he reportedly hoped to build the city's tallest residential building.

"Both sides agreed that the deal was not in the best interest of the city," said the executive.

EXCLUSIVE

Costs had escalated and the numbers showed that we should not go down that road," added the executive, who did not wish to be identified.

Costs had indeed escalated. In 2005, CUNY agreed to pay Ratner \$86 million to build the 11-story dormitory and also to hand over the lucrative development site where City Tech's Klitgord Auditorium now stands.

Then in December, CUNY raised Ratner's fee to \$207 million with no explanation.

"Ratner's 'Mr. Brooklyn' deal gets sweetened," The Brooklyn Paper reported.

Still, it's likely that Ratner willingly got out of the deal in



Bruce Ratner

right now," said Yasky (D-Brooklyn Heights). "I think a lot of developers are re-evaluating their numbers and feel that residential buildings don't work right now."

Yasky called Ratner's withdrawal "good news" for Brooklyn.

"A residential building at that corner was an awkward fit," said Yasky. "A lot of plans were made that didn't work out."

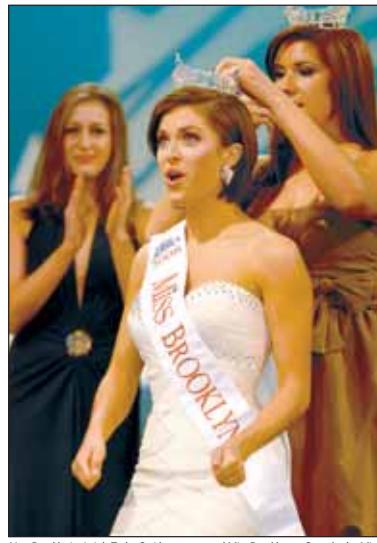
"We'll be in a better relationship with the state Dormitory Authority," the executive said.

"He may be overextended,"

light of the nation's ongoing recession.

City Tech's dorm and lab will still be built — but no longer as a part-time post-graduate program.

"We'll be in a better relationship with the state Dormitory Authority," the executive said.



Non-Brooklynite Leigh-Taylor Smith was crowned Miss Brooklyn on Saturday by Miss New York 2007 Elisabeth Baldanza. True "Miss Brooklyn's" are pictured below.



Caron Alexandra
Brooklyn Heights

Miss B'klyn is from ... Manhattan

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

There's a new Miss Manhattan? The Miss Brooklyn pageant — re-appeared after a 16-year absence last week and was plunged immediately into controversy because the winner is a woman who's not from Kings.

Leigh-Taylor Smith, 22, was whisked across the East River, forcing the borough to wait at least another year before it can crown one of its daughters with top honors.

"This is fantastic!" Smith said, smiling after the crown was set on her head and she was shown downstage.

There were only seven contestants, but the Miss Brooklyn pageant was every bit the precursor to Miss America, ranking the belle in their appearance in a swimsuit and evening wear, their talents in a singing and dancing number, and their intelligence in interviews with fast questions (thankfully, none of the competitors said she'd work for "world peace").

The judges lobbed some softballs at the contestants — "What do you do on downtime?" asked one judge — but mostly stayed with cut-and-dried.

One official wanted to know whether women who've had cosmetic surgery should be disqualified from such pageants, the equivalent of asking should baseball players who use steroids be banned from the major leagues.

"I don't think so," said Theresa Tokatowski, explaining that some women choose surgery to "be more comfortable" or "correct problems."

The talent portion of the program ranged from tap-dancing to opera, from a comical bit about a Jewish secretary who dances on a hip-hop can to a serious bit about the death of a parrot.

"I'll be the first rapper with an exclusively clerical content," joked Julya Vekstein, a Park Slope.

She got laughs, but it was Smith who tore the roof off the Brooklyn Tabernacle on Union Street in Flatbush Extension, where tickets were going for \$30 a pop. Smith's rendition of "Nobody Does It Like Me," from the musical "Sesame," was amazingly appropriate (given its inappropriateness, that is).

"It's about being a sensible girl, being a girl, all that," Smith said. It was an odd choice for Smith, whose only qualification for being Miss Brooklyn — other than her looks, talent and charm — is that she is a parishioner at the Brooklyn Tabernacle on the Fulton Mall in Downtown.

Living in Manhattan, it's nice to come to a low-key place like Brooklyn," she told The Brooklyn Paper.

Before Brooklynites can imbue at Smith's victory, partisans should remember that it might never have happened had more genuine Brooklynites signed up.

"We only had a few committed girls from Brooklyn," said Kim Thomas, executive director of the Miss Brooklyn Scholarship Program. "We couldn't have a contest with only three girls."

Fed cash crunch threatens 'affordable' A'Yards homes

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Thousands of affordable housing units — including some 1,250 units that Bruce Ratner promised to include in his Atlantic Yards mega-development — will not be built due to a huge shortfall in federal subsidies available for low-cost housing creation. The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

It would take between \$6 and \$7 billion in federal grants to build all of the pending projects in the state — roughly five times more than is available, according to Sen. Charles Schumer, the senior vice president of the Senate Housing Committee. The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

"There's a lot more demand for affordable housing projects these days and we don't have enough money available," said Joe Chan, the president of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, the grass-roots group that oversees the residential component of the long-languishing

area bounded by Tillary, Fulton and Jay streets and Flatbush Avenue.

"It was a risk of seeing less affordable housing" originally planned, he continued.

The trouble is most worrisome to someone involved in the Yards — the 16-story residential project, whose main selling point was its proposed 2,250 units of below-market-hous-

ing. To finance those units, Ratner said he would need \$300 million in subsidies over seven years, according to state documents.

And that money is not available, experts say.

"It's highly unlikely Forest City will be able to get the amount of subsidies that will go with the amount of affordable housing," said Councilman David Yasky (D-Brooklyn Heights).

Most developers have already held such talks at this stage

Bonds bombshell killing projects

The Explainer

How does the process work?

A developer can apply to the city or state for tax-exempt bonds.

How many bonds are available?

Developers in New York are seeking \$6 billion to \$7 billion in such bonds this year, yet only \$1.3 billion is available.

Why such big demand?

Partly because developers know they

can circumvent some neighborhood opposition by getting tax-exempt bonds.

Also, several Bloomberg administration initiatives give more incentives for developers to build affordable, thereby putting further strain on the system.

Didn't Ratner promise 2,250 affordable units at Atlantic Yards?

Yes.

What will happen to the units if the bonds aren't there?

Some of them won't get built.

Can Bruce Ratner really back away from that promise?

Yes. If he writes a \$300,000 check — a stub — for the \$3.6 billion company — to the housing group, ACORN, which signed Ratner's Community Benefits Agreement in 2005.

nation outright.

That's what the 795 superdelegates — party leaders of the Clinton and Obama campaigns — are threatening to do. Many longstanding ties to the Clinton family — indeed, one superdelegate is former President Bill Clinton — and their voting weight is considerable.

Clinton won Brooklyn by 48 percent vote. But Obama won big in Clinton's and Towns' districts, taking 56 percent of the vote in Clinton's 11th District, which covers Clifton, Cypress Hills and Crown Heights. He tallied 57 percent in Towns' 10th District, which stretches from Brooklyn Heights to East New York.

After hearing about Clinton and Towns' continued support for Clinton, Assemblymen Jaken Jeffries (D-Brooklyn Heights) and Eric Adams (D-Brooklyn Heights) called for a vote of no confidence in the superdelegates.

Clinton and Towns' supporters

gates under scrutiny. If the remaining primary voting continues as it has gone so far, neither candidate may have locked up the required 2,025 delegates to win the nomi-

nation outright.

While Rosenbloom and his wife, former Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, said the family-temple arrangement was working out well, one inside source said the Masons were less than pleased with some of the changes.

"The crowd was completely disrespectful," said the woman, who didn't want his name used.

It was like a frat party.

On Jan. 24 and 25, the Temple hosted two performances of Neu-

rosi, a post-metal rock band. While Rosenbloom and his wife, Linda Rosenthal, said the family-temple arrangement was "inappropriate," but says he's taken steps to ensure that there won't be an encore as concerts continue. On Saturday, the Temple will host Ballroom Beat. Rosenbloom said there would be two or three concerts a month.

And even if Rosenbloom's

clients have little regard for the space, Rosenbloom, for one, recognizes its "special" char-

acter.

On a recent weekday, he met with people in the hall, arched foyer, which is hung with faded banners, one celebrating the 100th anniversary of the temple.

The auditorium itself, off the foyer, was set up for an event, with 30 long tables, covered in white tablecloths, red chairs arranged in long

rows.

Rock concerts are new to the

auditorium.

They're doing rock shows at the Ma-

sonic Temple in Fort Greene.

Hil's B'klyn superdelegates to rescue

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Two Brooklyn's superdelegates say they'll vote for Sen. Hillary Clinton at the Democratic convention even though the majority of voters in their districts cast ballots for Sen. Barack Obama in the New York primary.

Both Rep. Ed Towns (D-Brooklyn Heights) and Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-Park Slope) said they still back Clinton's flagging campaign — despite recent reports that she was in danger of losing New York.

In a statement, she said "she is a committed superdelegate to Hillary Clinton." She added that her role as a superdelegate is not simply to follow the lead of constituents.

"Superdelegates have the unique re-

sponsibility to balance the

needs of their district,

state, party and country," she said.

She refused to take any

questions and did not say

anything beyond its support

for Clinton in an interview with the New York Times.

Though Times

asked her if she was for

Obama, she said for

Hillary.

"And no matter what,

she is the frontrunner from the state," she said.

The close battle between Obama and Clinton has put the role of the superde-

legates under scrutiny. If the remaining primary voting continues as it has gone so far, neither candidate may have locked up the required 2,025 delegates to win the nomination outright.

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A detail of the Hard Rock Masonic Temple.

'Temple' of rock 'n' roll in Fort Greene

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Masons — a group long

associated with opaque ritu-

als, secretive oaths of brother-

hood — and, of course, the

Founding Fathers — are now

becoming associated with

something more modern:

rock and roll.

The Brooklyn Masonic

Temple, the 101-year-old 12-

story brick, marble and terra

cotta cube of a building on the

corner of Clermont and Lafay-

ette avenues, has been host-

ing concert performances by

local rock 'n' roll groups for

the past year, including the

Brooklyn Bridge Rockers, the

Brooklyn Rockers, the Brooklyn

Rockers, the Brooklyn Rock

Stressless
Furniture

shoprico.com

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1ST THURSDAY
DUMBO GALLERY WALK

5:30-8:30PM
every first Thursday of the month.

5+5 Gallery: Ever wonder how a million \$ print was made?
Printmaking Demonstration: 6:30-7:30pm FREE!

Brooklyn Arts Council presents Brooklyn Moquen Arab Music Festival
"Tuning Your Ear" Arab Music Workshop & Jam with Koen Nagi.
Michael Marhef Bokouk, Middle Eastern Percussion Ensemble, Gomri Shafik & Mohamed Yhio. 6:30-8:30pm FREE! at Sote-T-Gallery

PARTICIPATING GALLERIES:

- 5+5 111 FRONT ST.
- ASWON GALLERY 14 JAY ST.
- BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL 111 FRONT ST.
- GALLERY 24 11 FRONT ST.
- GALLERIES 111 111 FRONT ST.
- GLOBO KENNEDY GALLERY 111 FRONT ST.
- HENRY GREGG GALLERY 111 FRONT ST.
- KLOMPCHING GALLERY 111 FRONT ST.
- MELVILLE HOUSE 149 FRONT ST.
- NELSON HANCOCK GALLERY 111 FRONT ST.
- ARTS, NY ALUMNI CLUB 111 FRONT ST.
- POCHORN STUDIOS 20 JAY ST.
- PROVINCIAL AREA 37 MAIN ST.
- ARTS & CRAFTS STUDIO 189 FRONT ST.
- SPRING 156 FRONT ST.
- UMBRA GALLERY 111 FRONT ST.
- VII DUMBO 20 JAY ST.
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BROOKLYN CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE
2007-2008 SEASON

Richmond Ballet
The State Ballet of Virginia
WORKS BY JESSICA LANG
An evening of New York premieres
Saturday, March 1, 2008 at 8pm
"visually stunning" — Dance Magazine

Program support provided by **NYCULTURE** WALLACE THEATER FOUNDATION
LILA ACHISON Wallace Theater Foundation
Harkness Foundation for Dance

Walt Whitman Theatre at Brooklyn College, 2900 Campus Road, Brooklyn (on-site paid parking available)
Tickets and info: www.BrooklynCenterOnline.org Box Office: 718-951-4500 (Tues - Sat, 3pm-6pm)

WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

WEDNESDAY

February 27



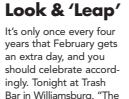
Let's dance

It might not grow peaches, but Georgia — the country, folks, not the state — sure does produce dancers. Tonight, the 200-year-old State Ballet of Georgia will kick off its run at BAM with two new works, and "Chaconne" by fellow Georgian, George Balanchine.

7:30 pm at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Place at Ashland Place in Fort Greene; \$20-\$70. Through March 2. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.thebrthbar.com.

FRIDAY

February 29



Look & 'Leap'

It's only once every four years that February gets an extra day, and you should celebrate accordingly. Tonight at Trash Bar in Williamsburg, "The Second Quadrennial Leap Year's Rock & Roll Dance Party" offers an open bar from 8 to 9 pm, the Candy Snatchers (pictured) and DJs. This is one party that's worth "Leaping" for.

8 pm at Trash Bar (256 Grand St. at Roebling St., Williamsburg); \$10. For information, call (718) 599-1000 or visit www.thetrashbar.com.

6 pm at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway, at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights); Free. For information, call (718) 638-0996 or visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.

Lady's day

The Brooklyn Museum's "First Saturday" series celebrates Women's History Month with Colombian singer Lucia Pulido (pictured), a dance performance from Ballet Folclórico Peru and a guided tour of "Love Has No End," the retrospective of work by artist Gada Amer.

6 pm at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway, at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights); Free. For information, call (718) 638-0996 or visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.

SATURDAY

March 1



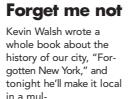
Forget me not

Kevin Walsh wrote a whole book about the history of our city, "Forgotten New York," and tonight he'll make it local in a multi-media presentation at Word Bookstore. Walsh will give attendees a peek at what Greenpoint was like long before restaurants and boutiques dotted Franklin Street.

7:30 pm at Word Bookstore (121 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint); Free. For information, call (718) 383-0996 or visit www.wordbrooklyn.com.

THURSDAY

March 6



Feeling green

Not since the Partridge Family packed up its bus and drove off into the sunset has a family band been met with such adoration as Leahy. The eight Canadian brothers and sisters that make up the step-dancing, Celtic-tinted group will help you get your St. Paddy's Day groove on.

7 pm at the Brooklyn College Theatre at Brooklyn College (2900 Campus Rd., at Hillside Place in Midwood); \$25-\$57. For information, call (718) 951-4500.

12 DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

WEDS, FEB 27

ONE-POT MEALS: The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts offers a class in how to use a slow cooker, \$70. 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. 1407 Carroll St. at Carroll St. in Williamsburg.

BOOK COURT: Reading by author James Attenberg from her novel, "The Kept Man." Also, John D. Jackson from his book, "The Last Stand: Her A Memory." 7 pm. 163 Court St. (718) 638-2970.

BAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Nina Ananishvili and the State Ballet of Georgia. \$20 to \$75. Through March 2. Brooklyn Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

GREEN HOUSE CONVERSATIONS: Discussion: "Green, Green, Green: How to Make a Living in the Arts" 7 pm to 9 pm. 361 Manhattan Ave. www.greendebtbrooklyn.com. Free.

READING: Richard Gere reads from his new book, "A Celebration of Popular Culture and Personal History." 7 pm to 8 pm. 1407 Carroll St. at Carroll St. in Williamsburg.

JAZZ AT BARGEMUSIC: Jeff Novell, Tricia Wood, and the Brooklyn Jazz Ensemble. 8 pm. Barge Music, 100 Front St. (718) 529-2000.

THEATER: "Take Me Out." 7:30 pm. See Sat., March 1.

THEATRE: "Notes from Underground: A Disgusting Play." 8 pm. See Sat., March 1.

THURS, FEB 28

SUPPORT: NY Methodist Hospital offers a surgical weight reduction information seminar and support group for those interested in surgical weight reduction surgery. 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. 1407 Carroll St. at Carroll St. in Williamsburg.

BOOK COURT: Reading by author Rachel Cline from "My Last." 7 pm. 163 Court St. (718) 638-2970.

GREENHOUSE CONVERSATIONS: Discussion: "Green, Green, Green: How to Make a Living in the Arts" 7 pm to 9 pm. 361 Manhattan Ave. www.greendebtbrooklyn.com. Free.

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ART SHOW: New works, new instruments, new artists at 1407 Carroll St. at Carroll St. in Williamsburg.

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ADOPT AN ANIMAL: The Animal Care and Control of New York City (ACC) is asking people to adopt their animals to be adopted. 8:30 a.m. to 5 pm. 240 Seventh Ave. (718) 788-3277.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE BAY RIDGE UNIT: Committee to Save the Bay Ridge Unit, 100 Franklin Ave. (718) 788-9500 for info.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

PROTECT YOUR HOME: State Sen. Eric Adams hosts an open house to discuss ways to prevent home invasions and avoid foreclosures. Madge E. College (100 Franklin Ave., between Carroll and Montgomery Streets in Carroll Gardens), 7 pm. (718) 284-4700 for information.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

76th BROOKLYN BRIDGE WORKSHOP: Monthly meeting, 76th Precinct Community Council, 191 Union St., between Henry and Hicks streets in Carroll Gardens.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

PARK RIDE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: Forum on climate change, Old First Reformed Church, Seventh Avenue and Carroll Street in Carroll Gardens. Call (718) 638-4200 for info.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

THE BROADWALK: Brooklyn's first annual Broadway Walk, 1407 Carroll St. at Carroll St. in Williamsburg.

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THE BROADWALK: Brooklyn's first annual Broadway Walk, 1407 Carroll St. at Carroll St. in Williamsburg.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

THE BROADWALK: Brooklyn's first annual Broadway Walk, 1407 Carroll St. at Carroll St. in Williamsburg.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

THE BROADWALK: Brooklyn's first annual Broadway Walk, 1407 Carroll St. at Carroll St. in Williamsburg.

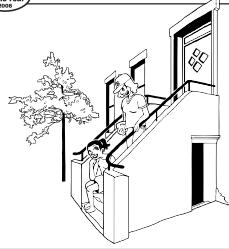
FRIDAY, APRIL 25

THE BROADWALK: Brooklyn's first annual Broadway Walk, 1407 Carroll St. at Carroll St. in Williamsburg.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

THE BROADWALK: Brooklyn's first annual Broadway Walk, 1407 Carroll St. at Carroll St. in Williamsburg.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27</p



THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

GOWANUS



A big 'Toll' on the Gowanus Canal

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The dream of a Gowanus Canal lined with homes and esplanades instead of oil companies and factories took a step forward as a developer in suburban Mendham unveiled his vision for a 447-unit development that actually uses the fetid canal as a selling point.

Toll Brothers, the famed builder of suburban luxury developments and plans with the city on p. 7 to lead its luxury brand name to a project that mixes in 130 below-market-rate apartments, retail space and a public esplanade along the famous (if not "wastey") between Carroll and Second streets.

The developer says its proximity to the Gowanus is the signature element of the project, despite fact that this corpse of water is synonymous with heinous smells and floating garbage.

"The location is the key to its success, really," said David Von Spreckelsen, a Toll Brothers vice president. "Being with Carroll Canal, two blocks from the canal and two blocks from the subway is great."

Before the Toll Brothers can build residential buildings, however, the company needs a zoning change. And to get that, the company will need to make an environmental impact review that will take more than a year to complete. The process won't start until the Department of City Planning says all the details of the Toll Brothers proposal is in order, a ruling that is expected to come in the fall.

After that, everyone from the Community Board to the City Council gets to weigh in and, possibly, force Toll Brothers to alter its plan or make concessions.

One source of some immediate concern is the size of the project, which calls for two, 12-story buildings along the canal. Opponents don't want developers to set a precedent for big buildings that drive out local businesses or destroy architectural landmarks.

"As a borough, we probably need to take a step back and figure out what we want to do with the canal," said Eric McClure, a member of Park Slope Neighbors. "There's some great industrial architecture. I'd have to set it turned into a cookie-cutter, mixed-use village."

COBBLE HILL



David Walentas angered locals who think they caught him building "cabanas" atop his Atlantic Avenue project.

Is Walentas a 'cabana' boy?

The Brooklyn Paper

Are they city-approved bulkheads or illegal cabanas?

What's the residents of Cobble Hill were wondering this week after David Walentas's controversial — and city mandated 50-foot-tall — project on Atlantic Avenue suddenly sprouted three bright yellow boxes above the city's most expensive buildings.

What's more, the structures are illegal bulkheads similar to the beachy doodads atop other Walentas luxury buildings.

Walentas — who tried, but failed, to get an exemption on the Cobble Hill Historic District's 50-foot height cap this fall — replied that the structures are merely mechanical bulkheads, and they've been approved by a Department of Buildings and the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The landmarks agency confirmed that its 2006 approval allows Walentas to build bulkheads atop the 50-foot building, which is next door to Walentas' Joe's at the corner of Court Street and Atlantic.

The agency also said it would investigate whether the developer was illegally building his beloved cabanas.

— Mike McLaughlin

DUMBO

Hip-hop hooray

Popular DUMBO rap festival returns after apparent snub

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

The Brooklyn Hip Hop Festival — which appeared in jeopardy after a scheduling snafu and charges of racism last year — will take place at Brooklyn Bridge Park on Saturday, Feb. 12, according to the festival's organizer.

Last year, the Empire State Development Corporation, which schedules events in the greenspace and condo development, raised hackles by scheduling a Polish-language production of "Macbeth" in the June slot that had been occupied for a year by a popular festival that's like a mix of Killa Jam and the Roots.

"There was the impression that the state [wasn't] committed to our type of programming and audience," said Wes Jackson, the organizer of the event. But Jackson said the ensuing brouhaha — and coverage in The Brooklyn Paper — resulted in meetings that ultimately led to the festival's like a mix of Killa Jam and the Roots.

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy reiterated how much it valued our event, and so did the state," said Jackson, who now expects 4,000 concertgoers in Empire Fulton Ferry State Park.

Following the Brooklyn festival, Jackson plans to tour the national, stopping in cities like Chicago and Miami.

That's not bad for a festival that began in the Brooklyn Brewery parking lot. "We essentially doubled in size every year," said Jackson, a Clinton Hill resident.

GREENPOINT

Everyone in the pool — for real

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

This time, the restoration of the McCarren Park Pool is really going to happen. No, really.

Parks Department officials promised as much on Feb. 13 when they unveiled new renderings of a lushly restored pool — though they say in the community greeted the gorgeous pictures with an arched eyebrow.

"I hope it's real, but so far, no one has actually happened," said Laura Hoffman, a long-time Greenpointer.

What's more, if it's actually get built? There's been a lot of talk, and a lot of false promises over the years."

In 1984, the Depression-era pool closed in 1984, two restoration plans have wended their way through the bureaucratic maze, only to be quashed by unforeseen events.

In 1985, preservationists killed plans for a year-round recreation center and Olympian-sized pool at the site — already funded with \$10 million — arguing the windows on either side of the iconic arched entryway should be preserved.

Momentum picked up again to reopen the pool in the late 1990s, culminating in 2001 with the similar, though pricier, \$21-million "Reef Plan." Commandeering activists were foiled again, this time by 9/11.

This time, the Bloomberg administration has allocated \$50 million toward the restoration of the pool. Officials say construction should begin by early next year.

Although the Park has had a long, and at times uncertain, history, we assure residents that a new pool is forthcoming," said Phil Abramson, a Parks Department spokesman.

"Thanks to the mayor, funds are finally in our budget, and there is also a greater amount of community consensus than ever before," he said.

The design calls for reopening both the entire mammoth pool, which can hold up to 6,800 people, and the deeper diving pool. The two pools will be turned into a year-round recreation center that would include locker rooms, fitness facilities, restaurants, showers and a gymnasium.

There would also be a skating rink in winter.

All sounds great, but given the history, the latest Parks Department promises have met with some skepticism.

"It's been frustrating," said Tom Gilbert, who was involved in the 2001 effort.

Some of the neighborhood's residents are also upset that the plan will, after this summer, displace what has become a popular concert series at the pool. In 2006, the pool has hosted bands like Beastie Boys and Disco Biscuits and a number of film screenings.

The pool complex, completed in 1976, sits on Lorimer Street, between Driggs and Bedford avenues.

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PARK SLOPE

Judge Phillips, Hynes foe, 83

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Judge John Phillips, the former Civil Court judge whose multi-million-dollar estate was looted by his court-appointed guardians, died last Saturday at his senior-housing facility, said his daughter, friend John O'Hanrahan. Phillips was pronounced dead at New York Methodist Hospital in Park Slope.

Phillips's death is the latest chapter in the long saga of how his estate was plundered by court-appointed guardians after he was declared incompetent, according to his attorney, Charles Hynes, whose job Phillips intended to seek.

In his heyday, Phillips was not only politically ambitious, but also a well-known figure in Bedford-Stuyvesant, where he served on the council and earned the nickname "the kung-fu" judge because of his black belt in the martial art.

Phillips was not afraid to court controversy. Not only did he oppose the Brooklyn Democratic machine, but went so far as to back



About 30 mourners attended the funeral of Judge John Phillips at the Open Door Church of God in Christ on Tuesday.

Rudy Giulianini in his 1989 mayoral contest against David Dinkins.

"I'm 6'6"-7," explained Phillips, according to the New York Times. "I can kill you with my hands faster than you can believe. I carry a gun. But I'm scared to walk the streets at night. How do you think black women feel?"

In his later years, Phillips was prosperous, having owned more than 10 buildings in Bed-Stuy, including the Slave Theater on Fulton Street, a focal point for neighborhood activists such as the Rev. Al Sharpton. He worth an estimated \$10 million.

But after Hynes's office had declared him incompetent in 2001, nearly all of the dozen properties Phillips owned were auctioned off — yet the profits ended up enriching only his guardians, not the judge.

Just before his death, events had finally started to turn back in his favor. In December, a state judicial panel suspended the legal license of Emani Taylor, who served as Phillips's guardian between 2003 and 2006, for stealing \$328,000 from Phillips's account.

A movie about his plights was in the works. And the day before his death, he was presented with a new set of furniture bought for him by fashion designer Mark Ecko, who takes an interest in Phillips's plight after reading about it in this and other publications.

But hours later, he was dead.

Now, the surrogate court must determine what to do with his estate.

Thanks to his guardians' incompetence, Phillips owes more than \$1 million in back taxes.

His current guardian, James Cahill, is considering turning off the Stewart Theater to pay the back taxes — Bedford-Stuyvesant residents protested the potential action on Saturday in front of the theater.

Meanwhile, investigations into Taylor's guardianship will proceed, according to a source familiar with the case.

Phillips had no survivors.

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Newspaper of the Year

Ridge rob spree in just 1 hour

The Brooklyn Paper

68th Precinct

Two 72nd Street homes were robbed on Feb. 13 one hour and

10 blocks apart from each other.

The first burglary, between

11th and 12th avenues, occurred

at 10:15 am when a burglar

broke through the basement

door to gain entry into the

house. Police say the crook

made off with \$15,300 in cash

and jewelry.

An hour later, at 9:15 am, a

house between Narrows Avenue

and Colonial Road was burglar

ized after a perp entered

through the kitchen window.

In this case, the thief stole a

laptop, cash, and expensive co-

ops, cops said.

Walking bandits

A man was beat up and

robbed on Third Avenue

on Feb. 11 after nonchalantly approaching him.

The man was near the corner

of 36th Street at around 2 pm

when the thugs pounced.

After punching the 35-year-

old man in the face, the crooks

robbed him of his wallet, keys and cell-

phone, cops said.

Sum dum luck

A 13th Avenue Chinese

restaurant was robbed on Feb.

11 after a determined burglar

broke through the front gate

and crawled through the

front glass door.

Police say the break-in oc-

curred sometime around 3 am

at the restaurant, which is be-

tween 69th and 70th Streets.

The thief left with \$2,200.

Joe Jordan

62nd Precinct

Social drink

A group of catty, drunken

women beat up and robbed an-

other woman at a 62nd Street

watering hole on Feb. 16.

The 35-year-old victim was

inside the bar, which is near

15th Avenue, at around 4:30 pm

when she had an argument with

one of the five women.

Minutes later, the woman's

posse stalked over and started

to beat and punch the victim.

One of the perps swiped the

purse while another hit the vic-

tim with a glass bottle, police said.

The purse had contained \$600

and credit and debit cards.

Break-in

A thief stole \$20,000 from a

West 10th Street apartment on

Feb. 11.

The 48-year-old tenant re-

turned to the apartment, which

is located in the St. George S

and is said to be a year old.

The door had been broken open

and \$20,000 in cash and jewelry

had been taken stolen, police

said.

Cleaned out

A woman was literally taken

to the cleaners after leaving her

wallet unattended in a Bay

Parkway Laundromat on Feb.

12.

The 28-year-old victim was

doing her laundry at the clean-

ers, which is near 86th Street,

at around 5:40 pm. She stepped

out to get a drink of water and

her clothes, and when she returned,

her wallet, which contained

\$125 and credit and debit cards,

were gone, police said.

The woman was unable to get

a good look at the perp as he

left the laundromat.

Savings stolen

A man had his 77th Street

apartment broken into

on Feb. 11.

The 28-year-old returned to the

home, which is near 9th

Avenue, at around 9 am the fol-

lowing morning.

The thief managed to

steal \$2,000, along with his

safety-deposit box keys, with-

out any signs of forced entry,

police said.

Safely stored?

A man had tools and equip-

ment stolen from his Shore Park-

way storage facility.

The man returned to the stor-

age unit, which is near Crosey

Avenue, at around 2 pm on Feb.

11 and found that thieves had

broken in and taken the tools and

valued items, worth at

\$1,535, police said.

Hold up

A gun-toting thief robbed a

man on West Seventh Street on

Feb. 5.

The 47-year-old was near

Avenue T at around 12:30 am

when the thief came from be-

hind and pointed the gun in the

back of his head.

The thief demanded the vic-

tim to get on the ground and to

fork over his cash.

The victim handed over

\$1,300 and laid face down on

the pavement as the thief ran

off with the cash, police said.

— Michael Gardina

Fire in the hole?

Navy will check if there is any ammo in them thar bay

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

The Department of Defense will investigate whether live ammunition is still sitting in Gravesend Bay more than 50 years after it was accidentally dumped there — a key win for opponents of a city plan to put a garbage transfer station near the possibly contaminated site.

The fateful agreement to scour Navy archives comes just a month after Assemblyman William Colton (D-Bensonhurst) dredged up the story of a barge that capsized in the bay in 1954, reportedly sending more than 200 tons of live ammunition to the ocean. News accounts from the era reported that most of the live ammunition was cleaned up, but Colton and Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) asked the Department of Defense to make absolutely sure before the city built a waste transfer station in the bay to make way for the large, trash-hauling barge that will dock at the station, to be located on Shore Parkway at 26th Avenue.

The city office has already assembled a team including our Naval historian, explosive ordnance experts, and the Army Corps of Engineers dredging experts, who are actively collecting the data the Navy's Assistant Secretary BJ Penn will need to lawmakers this week.

The waste-transfer station is a central element in Mayor Bloomberg's garbage plan, which the Council approved last year. A spokesman for the Department of Sanitation said that even though the transfer station would be located two miles from the site of the overturned vessel, the city would take the results of the investigation into account.

Meanwhile, a noted environmental lawyer has joined Colton's crusade to stop the garbage-transfer station.

After Colton and Fossella have called on the federal government to declare Gravesend Bay a "Superfund Site," citing over 30 years of illegal incineration at the defunct Southwest Brooklyn incinerator, "Any action on that front would result in a mandatory clean-up of the site, which would further delay the construction of the waste transfer station — possibly long enough to force the city to find a new site."

"Conducting short of an enormous environmental assessment and remediation program can help undo the damage that an illegal incinerator has done to Gravesend Bay for over 30 years," said Colton.

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Robber chased into Manhattan

The Brooklyn Paper

84th Precinct

A man who saw a wad of cash snatched out of his pocket on Feb. 12 followed the thief into Manhattan, and eventually brought the perp to justice with a security guard.

The 46-year-old victim was walking towards the Borough Hall subway station when he reached the corner of Livingston and Court Streets at around 12:30 pm when a man who had been loitering and took off down the street.

The man ran after her, pursuing her into the station, and into a crowded, semi-circular-bound 3 train. He didn't lose sight of her as she got off at the Wall Street stop and was walking along on Fulton Street near Willow Street. That's when the inter-hoodie chase ended, as the man informed a building security guard what had happened and the cops were called.

Officers arrived and arrested the woman.

Heights burgs

A string of burglaries hit Brooklyn Heights, and four apartments within spitting distance of one another were broken into, two of them on the same floor, on Feb. 11.

The first strike came on Feb. 11, after a Willow Street resident left her apartment unlocked, her laptop and a Coach bag, and a fancy diamond off-jewelry had been swiped.

The perp, who sneaked in through a window opening onto

a fire escape, got away with \$3,145 total, cops said. A downstairs neighbor reported hearing breaking glass around 10 pm, but hadn't bothered to investigate further.

Cops believe that the same crook, who also burglarized the same floor the very next day,

A 27-year-old tenant told cops that she left the building around 10 pm, and when she got back at 5 pm, she noticed that the bedroom window, which looks out onto the fire escape, had been opened. Upon further examination, she realized that

the thief had taken her laptop, a pair of earrings and an iPod — a total loss of \$2,200.

Later that night, another upper-story apartment was burglarized on Feb. 11.

The resident, who remained anonymous, returned in the evening to find that the window nearest the fire escape had been opened, although in this case the crook had taken only two digital cameras worth \$410. Perhaps he was fatigued.

Around the corner, in a building on Orange Street between Willow and Hicks streets, a

renter returned from a week on vacation to discover that another "fire escape burglar" had taken her laptop, a pearl necklace and other valuables. In all, she lost \$5,295 in stuff.

Jeans jacked

An unshod shoplifter made a quick getaway with 20 pairs of jeans from a Smith Street store on Feb. 15.

The clothing store, near the corner of Bergen Street, was quiet around 10 pm, and an employee heard the security alarm go off. Unfortunately, the perp was gone.

A subsequent perusal of the selling floor revealed that a stack of designer jeans — worth \$2,920 — had been stolen.

Masked mugs

A quartet of masked bandits in black balaclavas made walking to a subway station on the night of Feb. 15.

The 27-year-old victim was walking on Fulton Street near Adams Street, on his way to the Borough Hall station at around 10 pm, when the four masked men approached him. One of them grabbed him and held him against a wall while the fourth thug went through his pockets, taking \$200 and numerous credit cards, which the man immediately canceled.

— Harry Cheade

88th Precinct

Withdrawal

A pair of perps not only took a man's phone on Feb. 16, but they threatened him into taking \$1,000 of his ATM before they let him go.

The 23-year-old's troubles started as he was walking down

Waverly Avenue between Myrtle and Willoughby avenues at around 6 pm, cellphone in his ear. Two men in black balaclavas approached him, one of them pulling out a knife and demanding "Get off the — king phone and give it to me."

Not wanting to question five inches of steel, the man complied, and complied again when the two men threatened to "break your wallet." Then he added: "The only way you're going to get it back is to go to the ATM and withdraw some cash."

The perp proceeded to a nearby Myrtle Avenue bodega with the thugs in tow, withdrew the cash and got back in his car.

Clumsy crook

An ungraceful burglar botched an attempt to drill his way into an apartment building on Feb. 10, and had to abandon his plan halfway through.

The perp was apparently trying to drill holes in the front lock of a building on South Elliott Place, between Myrtle Avenue and 9th St. when he hit the door buzz.

A still-awake resident, who didn't know the burglar was there, but the small-time crook realized he had made a rather bad mistake and ran off before he could be identified.

Whack whack

A criminal took a page from Batman's nemesis, the Penguin on Feb. 13, when he used an umbrella as a weapon against two security guards.

The two victims, a pair of 17- and 18-year-old boys, were walking on Fulton Street near DeKalb Avenue when a 5-foot-9 man with freckles came

See POLICE on page 18

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624-5554 624-7055
Convenient Office Hours & Ample Parking
 and insurance plans accommodated

Cast away!

I'm finally free — sort of,
after accepting my award

PONTE VEDRA, FLA. —
There's nothing quite like being named
"Editor of the Year" by a major
national newspaper trade associa-

tion.

Getting the cast off my back

Now a sound ungrateful
to the Brooklyn Suburban
Newspapers of America for naming me "Editor of the Year."
It's a remarkable," "uniquely talented"

and "a passable harmonica
player," but it wasn't too much
spending four days in this
boring town, not to mention walking

around on crutches, not even getting
a splash pain in my leg
when I was bailed out through (which
happened every 15 minutes in Florida).

Yes, acceptance speech
killed (don't worry, I'll be back). You'll
find it on YouTube by searching,
what else?, "editor of the year,"
or at BrooklynPaper.com, but I
couldn't help feeling that I was

getting a little last laugh.

On my return, I headed straight to
Lutheran Medical Center for my appointment
with Dr. Markowitz. I was the
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ago (exclusively, I might add!),
Councilman Bill DeBlasio had
the cast off in a frenzied bidding
war with fellow Councilman

Simcha Felder. But Markowitz
wasn't the only one to get back

Markowitz-Kunzman relations

at least four years.

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FRIENDSHIP • EXPLORATION ADVENTURE • DISCOVERY MEMORIES • IMAGINATION

BAX classes and programs build creativity, encourage exploration and offer a positive, nurturing environment in which young people grow.

BAX has been known for its excellence in arts education for over 15 years.

SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE JOIN US ON SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 12PM-2PM

Junior Summer Arts Program (entering K-5th grades)

Full Day, Monday – Friday, June 30-August 15

Seven one-week sessions in video, theater, circus arts, musical theater, puppetry, dance and more!

Young Artists Program (ages 10-14)

Full day, Monday – Friday, June 30-August 8

Three two-week sessions in theater, video and more. Weekly trips to arts destinations throughout NYC.

Spring Youth Classes (ages 3-18)

New trimester begins March 24!

Creative Movement, Modern, Physical

Comedy, Creative Dramatics,

Boys Movement, Ballet and more

PLUS classes for babies/toddlers!

Call 718-832-0018 or visit
www.bax.org for more information.



421 Fifth Avenue
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Brooklyn Arts Exchange
arts and artists in progress

Where fun in the sun &
learning go hand-in-hand



June 18 thru
July 27

Perfect for campers age 2 to Kindergarten graduate

- Arts & Crafts
- Water play
- Swimming
- Games & Sports
- Music
- Tumbling
- Field Trips



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www.plymouthchurch.org



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CAMP PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AGES 4-16

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM



Swimming Lessons • Summer Experience Day Camp • Performing Arts Camp
Sports Camps • Summer Academic Program • Computer Camp for Young People

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February 23/March 1, 2008

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2007



The Brooklyn Paper 2008

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

Find a summer camp here

Berkeley Carroll

Creative Arts Program

181 Lincoln Pl, Park Slope

(718) 789-6050 x 6500

berkeleycarrollcamp@berkeleycarroll.org

Director: Marlene Clary

Ages: 9-14

Full day, 9 am-4 pm

Extended hours: 8 am-5 pm

Activities: 85 classes in music,

drama, theater arts, ceramics,

graphic arts and media.

Arts and all in air-conditioned

classrooms, daily non-

performances, plus out-

of-class trips and exhibitions at

the end of camp. Swimming also offered.

Children's Day Camp

712 Carroll St, Park Slope

(718) 789-6050 x 6620

berkeleycarroll.org

Director: Jaci Valdez

jvaldez@berkeleycarroll.org

PreK through 3rd Grade

June 23 to July 24

Extended hours: 8 am-5 pm

Activities: classic day camp,

circus camp, puppetry, hand-

on science, theater, athletics,

music, much more.

Swimming also offered.

Ask about one and two

week mini-camps — "Let's

Dance" and "In and out of the

Pool"

Beth Elohim Summer Day Camp

OPEN HOUSE Sunday March

9, 11 am-1 pm

718-789-6419, Park Slope

(718) 788-3814, ext. 210

congregationbethelohim.org

Preschool Division

Ages: 3 to 5 1/2

Director: Maura Lorenzen

Jaci Israel

June 16 through July 25

Full Day: (9 am - 3 pm) and

Half Day: (9 am - 12:30 pm)

Activities: swimming, music,

arts, crafts, theater, sports,

music, dance, drama, art,

music, theater, sports, trips, 2 days per week

Elementary Division

Director: Bobbie Finkelstein

June 30 to Aug 15

Ages: entering K- 4th grades

Activities: swimming, music,

arts, crafts, theater, sports,

music, dance, drama, art,

music, theater, sports, trips, 2 days per week

Movin' On Travel Camp

Director: Bobbie Finkelstein

June 30 through Aug 15

Ages: entering 5th - 9th grades

Activities: daily trips, swimming

two 3-day overnights,

pre-CIT program for kids entering 9th grade

Camp Onas Quaker Sleepover

Camp in Bucks County, PA

(610) 847-5858

camponas.org

June 22 through Aug 16

Two week sessions

Ages: 8 to 13

Director: Sue Nester Gruel

Activities: swimming, climbing,

canoeing, backpacking, canoeing,

high ropes challenges,

course, theme weekends,

sports, arts and crafts, feed the

animals, copper enameled, wa-

ter polo, horseback, fishing,

Children's DAY CAMP

'Summer in the City'

Our campers will explore their interests, stretch their imaginations, and nurture their talents by participating in a wide array of camp activities.

Information:
jvaldez@berkeleycarroll.org
or (718) 789-6050 x6620

Activities: private backyard with water play equipment, trips, art, music, indoor gym.

Kim's Kid's Summer Camp

PS 321, 7th Ave., Park Slope

(718) 788-6419

Director: Dan Moinester

Ages: 4-12 / 11-14

Full day, 9 am- 3 pm

Extended hours 8 am- 6 pm

Flex weeks and number of days per week available

Activities: Traveling day camp with lots of physical and out-

doors activity. Daily trips, in-

cluding swimming (lake, pool and beach), hikes, museums, zoos, playgrounds, NY Aquarium, Liberty Science Center, bowling, climbing, exploring Sesame Place. Carefully selected adult staff.

Park Explorers

OPEN HOUSE: March 15

611 Eighth Avenue, Park Slope

(718) 788-3620

Director: Chris Altman

parkexplorers.com

Ages: 10 to 14

June 23 to August 29

Full day 8:30 am-3:30pm

Extended hours til 6:30 pm

Early drop off 8:00 AM

Bus transportation to many areas

Activities: No two days alike!

Sports of all kinds, nature walks,

hiking, arts and crafts, gymnastics,

team drama, karate, science trips, music, theater, and more

surprise trips to the city and in and around NYC. Special programs in sports and theater for first grade and up.

Park Slope Day Camp

OPEN HOUSE: Sunday March

Continued on page 7

Beth Elohim Day Camps

Summer 2008

OPEN HOUSE • March 9th • 11am-1pm

2 Year Olds

TERRIFIC TWOS CLASSES

Our popular pre-nursery program for your toddler, accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

3 Years to Kindergarten

LOWER DAY CAMP

Full & Half Day programs, Professional Staff, Fully equipped classrooms, Swimming in Temple pool, Weekly Trips for full day 4 & 5 yr. olds

Entering Kindergarten through 4th Grade

ELEMENTARY DAY CAMP

Full day program. Recreational & Instructional swim daily in Temple pool, Active outdoor sports, arts & crafts, nature, gymnastics and music. Trips twice a week in & around NYC

Congregation Beth Elohim

Garfield Temple

718-789-6414

8th Ave. & Garfield Pl. - Park Slope

Children of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds are welcome!

www.congregationbethelohim.org

Entering 5th through 9th Grade

MOVIN' ON TRAVEL CAMP

Five days of trips Swimming in Temple Pool Two (3 day) overnights. Mature, qualified staff

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

for youth entering 9th grade

For Tots & Lower Camp call Maura Lorenzen or Jaci Israel at: 499-6208

For Elementary & Travel Camp call Bobbie Finkelstein at:

768-3814 x210

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768-3814 x210

Physically Active, Nature Oriented, Outdoor TRAVELING DAY CAMP

Daily Trips to: Swimming at a lake, pool and the beach. Weekly hikes and trips to Museums, Zoos, Playgrounds, The Aquarium, Liberty Science Center, Bowling and a special trip to Sesame Place

Experienced, Carefully Chosen, Adult Staff

Flexible Schedule: 3, 4, 5 or 6 weeks 3, 4 or 5 days a week

Early drop-off (8am) and late pick up (6pm) available

Ages 4 1/2 to 11 years

28 years of operation

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The Brooklyn Paper 2008 CAMP GUIDE

Continued from page 6

and 23, 24, and 3 pm

In Windsor Terrace, Park Slope, Kensington, Bay Ridge

(718) 788-7732

camp@parkexplorersdaycamp.com

Director: Ronny Schindler

Ages: entering P.K.-9th grades

June 23 to Aug. 29

Full day (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.), early

dismissal optional for young kids

Extended hours to 6:30 p.m.

Transportation in the morning

and afternoon from Brooklyn

and Bay Ridge

Activities: outdoor camp with

sports, trips, gymnastics, drama

and theater, Olympics, travel

camp (featuring overnight trips), leadership program for

grades 9 and 10.

Accredited by the American

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Summer 2008

OPEN HOUSE Saturday April

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(718) 840-0000, ext. 3220

polyprep.org

Director: Michael Junsch

Bus available (extra fee)

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June 16 – Aug. 22

Full day: 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Activities: Arts, dance, sports,

swimming, and special events

and more

Also available: Performing

Arts Camp, Summer Academic

Program, Sports Camps,

Computer Camp, swimming

lessons (ages 4-14).

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Camp

7th & 8th Sts., Brooklyn Heights

(718) 424-4743, ext. 308y-

mouthchurch.org/plymouth-

camp@plymouthchurch.org

Director: Rev. Rosemarie

Rosenblom

June 23 to August 1

Full day: under 3 1/2 – 9 to

12:30; 1/2 to 5 – 9 to 3

Activities: Arts, sports, skills,

trips, music, gymnastics, kate

Brooklyn Arts Exchange

OPEN HOUSE: Sat. March 8,

noon to 2 pm

421 Fifth Ave., Park Slope

(718) 832-0018

Director: Pete McCourt

Junior Summer Arts Program

June 30 to August 15

Ages: entering K to 4th grade

Full day: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Extended day: 8:30 to 5 pm

Activities: Offering seven

one-week sessions in video,

music, theater, painting, theater,

paper, dance and arts

Counselor led activities

and special guests. Informal

performances.

Young Artists Program

June 1 to Aug. 8

Ages: 10 to 14

Full day: 9 a.m. to 4 pm

Extended day: 8:30 to 5 pm

Activities: Offering two

one-week sessions in theater,

music, dance, painting and

arts.

Developers led activities

and special guests. Informal

performances.

Full day: 9 a.m. to 4 pm

Extended day: 8:30 to 5 pm

Activities: Offering two

one-week sessions in theater,

music, dance, painting and

arts.

Counselor led activities

and special guests. Informal

performances.

Full day: 9 a.m. to 4 pm

Extended day: 8:30 to 5 pm

Activities: Offering two

one-week sessions in theater,

music, dance, painting and

arts.

Counselor led activities

and special guests. Informal

performances.

Full day: 9 a.m. to 4 pm

Extended day: 8:30 to 5 pm

Activities: Offering two

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arts.

Counselor led activities

and special guests. Informal

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Extended day: 8:30 to 5 pm

Activities: Offering two

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OUR OPINION

Ratner's shell game

It is becoming increasingly clear that developer Bruce Ratner will not be able to build much of the below-market-rate housing that he's promised to include in Atlantic Yards.

As we reported on our front page this week, Ratner's vow to include 2,250 units of so-called "affordable" housing in his \$4-billion mega-project is contingent upon \$1.4 billion in taxpayer subsidies — but, there are only \$1.3 billion in such federal funds available in the entire state of New York this year.

And experts, including the pre-development team of the Dowling and Brooklyn Partnership, Joe Chan, are already sounding the alarm that something's got to give.

If history is a guide, taxpayers will be doing the giving — but now they won't be getting affordable housing in return.

The affordable housing units at Atlantic Yards remain the project's principal carrot in the face of widespread community opposition and egregious misuse of public subsidies to a multi-billion-dollar project.

But there's a problem with Ratner's promised units. If he can't get the tax subsidies from the state, he can walk away from the deal simply by cutting a check for \$500,000 — which represents a tiny 0.14 percent of the company's \$3.6-billion total value — to one of the signatories of his "Community Benefits Agreement."

These signatories would call the affordable in state government and complete the shortfall in subsidies. Perhaps they will do what they've always done — repeatedly tell Metrotech and at Atlantic Terminal Mall — and lavish more taxpayer money on another of Ratner's white elephants.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Steve Bell

LETTERS

Jed Walentas answers his critics

To the editor:

In a recent letter in this newspaper, ("Trim Two Trees plan," Feb. 2), the chairman of the Urban Design Committee for the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects called our proposed Dock Street project "a 'green' building, a neighborhood, a 'green' building, a park, and neighborhood-oriented retail" — we want The Brooklyn Paper's reader to understand our approach to the design issues raised in the letter.

The Brooklyn AIA recommended that the site be given a zoning identical to the adjacent property. It is important to recognize that such zoning would not affect the size of the building we could build. It would, however, prevent us from moving the bulk of the

building's tower away from the Brooklyn Bridge. After hearing the concerns of the community, we have completely revised a previous version of the plan and reoriented the building to increase its physical distance from the bridge and minimize its visual impact on the bridge. In fact, the new plan results in slightly more overall height, the portion of the building closest to the bridge is much lower and the taller portions is turned so that it is not visible from the bridge.

The Brooklyn AIA also recommended that the building include setbacks at the south end of the tower closest to bridge. Such setbacks would not have a significant negative impact on the view from the bridge and would result in a non-contested design for the surrounding neighborhood.

The Dock Street building design is driven in large part by the need to maintain the character of the very strong architectural character of DUMBO as embodied by the Gai Building — all of which rise to their full height without setback. Dock Street is a modern and elegant building with clean, simple lines and, as such, we feel that the setbacks that are required for zoning are inappropriate here.

We firmly believe that our design philosophy, in combination with the simplicity of our design, will benefit the new Dock Street project officer makes the new Dock Street proposal significantly stronger than before.

Jed Walentas, DUMBO
The writer is a principal at Two Trees Management

She's not Lyons

To the editor:

As an avid reader of The Brooklyn Paper, I would like to offer my congratulations on your well-deserved "Editor of the Year" award ("Editor of the Year," Jan. 12) as well as my sympathy about Geri Lyons' broken ankle/search for a better orthopedist ("My ankle is having an affair," Feb. 2).

I have a similar story about Dr. Tom Lyons, who I saw a few years ago.

My elderly aint broke her ankle and was scheduled for surgery at Lutheran Medical Center by one of the prominent doctors in Brooklyn.

About one hour before the scheduled surgery, my sister and I were informed by a nurse, not the surgeon, mind you, that he would not be available to do the surgery. After a hasty interview on speaking with the replacement surgeon, my mountaineering young man approached us and identified himself as Dr. Tom Lyons.

We spoke for a few moments, then found out that he was from his background. He then told us that he was the chief of the Orthopedic Trauma Unit at Lutheran Medical Center, explained the procedure and the potential for complications, and then he didn't explain a problem.

Needless to say, we felt relieved and appreciated the fact that not only was the chief of the trauma unit operating on our aunt, but that he took the time to explain the procedure.

Take it simple terms and with respect. The operation was a success and my aunt was on her feet again.

I have since recommended Dr. Lyons to many people.

And one more thing, I wish Geri a speedy recovery from her ankle.

While I was at Veda Beach, I picked up his award on Feb. 21.

Louise Sahadi, Bay Ridge

Editor's note: Kuntzman did, indeed, make the trip to Pointe Vedra Beach. You can see his acceptance speech at BrooklynPaper.com.

Taking its toll

I know you'll be providing full coverage of the "Two Brothers" just-revealed plan for 626 Gowanus along with the Gowanus Canal, Carroll and Second Streets, but in the meantime, I want you to know that many, many nearby blocks will be affected by such density.

There will be hundreds more units in the Gowanus area. Is anyone planning for what will happen to the people who will shop/send their kids to schools/ride the train/park their cars/or even walk?

Please wake me from this nightmare! How can our neighborhood sustain this kind of insane development?

Trida Samaras, Gowanus

The writer is co-founder of Carroll Gardens Coalition to Respectfully Develop. Editor's note: A story on the Toll Brothers plan appears this week on page 3.

DELEGATES...

Continued from page 1

Greene) and Karin Camara (D-Crown Heights) sent a letter this week to Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean demanding that the superdelegates "not overturn the will of the majority."

"If one candidate concludes the primary season with more pledged delegates than a greater percentage of the popular vote, then fair-minded superdelegates — many of whom are un-elected party insiders — should not overturn the will of the majority of voters," the letter said. "To do otherwise would undermine the most fundamental tenets of democracy."

Voters also wondered how Clarke and Towns could have the temerity to go against such decisive outcomes in their districts.

"They should be representing their people," said Cain Flynn of Clinton Hill. "It should be clear-cut, but they're acting as politicians."

Ferrentz Lafatque of Prospect Heights added: "It's disingenuous to claim to be a representative, to then go and vote against the constituents."

Political insiders said the pro-Obama vote in the two districts has forced Clarke and Towns to do a tightrope act, balancing pressure from the party with pressure from voters.

<http://BrooklynPaper.com>

"They're doing a very rational self-interest calculation," said Patrick Egan, a political professor at New York University. "They're asking themselves, 'Who's going to win?' and 'Which way is the political wind blowing?'

The political gut check is not limited to Brooklyn. Last week, Rep. John Lewis (D-Georgia), a strong Clinton supporter, flipped to the Obama side after losing his bid to vote for his junior senator from Illinois. And Donny Bratton, a longtime Clinton supporter who is now with the Democratic National Committee, recently told CNN that she would support the Democratic Party if the nomination was decided by superdelegates, not the voters.

Indeed, if Towns and Clarke don't follow suit, some voters said the resulting "smoke-filled room" in Brooklyn would come up missing if Al Gore's defeat to George Bush in the 2000 election, despite winning the popular vote.

"It will not be a surprise that despite the inverse of the popular vote, their vote didn't matter," said the Rev. Clinton Miller of the Brown Memorial Baptist Church. "If these types of things keep on happening, it really puts democracy in crisis in America."

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

February 23/March 1, 2008

Punk talk

Henry Rollins brings rage to the stage at Greenpoint's Warsaw

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

Tall, burly and covered in tattoos, Henry Rollins isn't the type of guy most people would want to tick off. But on Feb. 27 and 28, fans of the author, actor and former frontman for seminal punk band Black Flag will pack Greenpoint's Warsaw to hear him get his under the collar in his new, live show, "Provoked: An Evening of Quintessentially American Opinionated Editorializing and Storytelling."

Part of a 20-city tour, "Provoked" is in the same vein as "The Henry Rollins Show," the Independent Film Channel series that followed Rollins and a variety of guests (recently

— Iggy Pop and Don Cheadle) sounding off on topics of the day. For Rollins, however, the nearly 10-hour, long-form show is an unanticipated experience.

"I go up there and I talk about where I've been, what I saw and how I feel about it," Rollins told GO Brooklyn. "Most of my references were from when I was in Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Pakistan, where [Benzar] Bhutto was assassinated, and that kept me from getting back to South Africa about 72 hours ago and I had some amazing experiences there. I spent a few months singing in [Nelson] Mandela's cell and that was a real testament. That's basically what it is: me storytelling and recounting. There is a lot of editorializing as we Americans are wont to do."

But Rollins isn't just another editor pundit. In addition to the editorials, he plans on taking the 20th trip to Australia later this year and claimed — "I have a favorite restaurant in every city. I know where the gym is, where the good record stores are; I know where the good sushi is all over the

world," although he wasn't sure of a spot in Brooklyn — he's also immersed himself in politics.

"I learn a lot about foreign affairs by going to foreign places and having affairs," Rollins said. "I've read books about Iran, but it's nothing like going. You have to go see things for yourself. So that's what I do, and that's where I keep my stuff from: being there and seeing that."

Since 2003, Rollins has traveled to Iraq with the United Service Organization (USO) on a number of occasions to meet with U.S. troops.

"This endless thing in Iraq literally keeps me up [at night]," he said. "There are so many unwanted consequences of the lack of critical thinking of so many

Americans is what makes me mad." Still, Rollins, who has also been an outspoken advocate of civil rights, is a staunch supporter of our military.

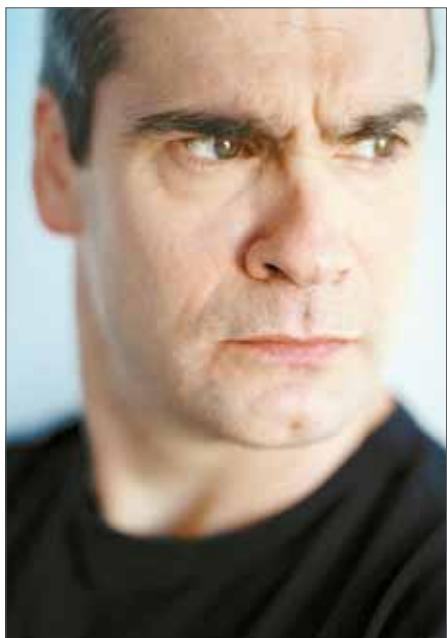
"The troops I like," Rollins said. "The troops don't start wars. The soldiers I've met are remarkably apolitical, and the conflict that we remark upon from the safety of our country is different than the ones they fight. For 12 hours, [a soldier's] job is to not get killed and to get his buddies back by sundown."

With such strong opinions, it's no surprise that Rollins discourages audience participation at his shows — if everyone shouted out his dissenting points, the performance could take even longer.

"There will be quiet while the old man is speaking," said Rollins, 47. "I'm not looking for audience participation, but we'll talk later after the show. I'm a mad teard, and they need to let me do it."

That's all right with fans.

"He comes from an enviable place where he's experienced a lot of stuff that's become



Raise a 'Flag': Former Black Flag frontman Henry Rollins performs solo in "Provoked: An Evening of Quintessentially American Opinionated Editorializing and Storytelling" on Feb. 27 and 28 at Warsaw in Greenpoint.

Rock 'n' Rollins

Henry Rollins has been a bold-faced name for over 20 years. From his days touring for Black Flag and the Rollins Band to his career as a globetrotting talking head, author and actor, Rollins has made himself a star. Here's a look at how he's done it.

1980
Rollins joins State of Alert, the Washington, D.C. punk outfit that released one album and three songs on the 1982 "Flex

Your Head" compilation, which helped launch the careers of local bands including Neutral.

1981
Rollins joins Black Flag and leaves for Los Angeles. The same year, the band releases "Dinaged," a seminal West Coast punk record, with Rollins on vocals.

1987
Having left Black Flag and released two solo albums of spoken word,

Rollins forms the Rollins Band and releases the 12-track "Life Time."

1994
Rollins joins Black Flag and leaves for Los Angeles. The same year, the band releases "Dinaged," a seminal West Coast punk record, with Rollins on vocals.

2002
Having released "Uncut" from Brooklyn's "Black Flag," his latest spoken word album, in 2007, Rollins heads back on the road with "Provoked" to share insight from his latest travels and experiences.

game show where contestants build cars and use them to compete in various challenges.

2006

In April, the Independent Film Channel airs "The Henry Rollins Show," a series that features him as host to a variety of guests and guests as hosts. The show is hosted by Rollins, who performs spoken word and sounds off with political and social commentary.

2008

Having released "Uncut" from Brooklyn's "Black Flag," his latest spoken word album, in 2007, Rollins heads back on the road with "Provoked" to share insight from his latest travels and experiences.

"This is easier than playing with a band," Rollins said. "It's a show. There aren't many words, and I'm alone. I like the lyric, the snare drum covers you. Now, I've got no meter but myself. If I stop talking, there's no show. That weight is all on me, and I quite enjoy it, but that makes it way more complicated than a band gig. The talking show is a front-loaded, mental, intellectual exercise."

"I am very prepared," he added. "I don't want to go on stage and ramble. I'm not pulling a string out of my chest, but I come very loaded."

BOOKS

Joke book

"I don't do comedy," said Richard Zoglin, author of "Comedy at the Edge: How Stand-up in the 1970s Changed America." "I can talk, but I don't know how funny I am."

On Feb. 28, his fans will be the ones to decide who's the funniest. Free Bird Books will have Zoglin read from his tome, for which he interviewed comedians from Steve Martin to David Letterman.

"I grew up listening to comedians and watching them on TV," said Zoglin, who works as an editor at Time magazine. "I was a huge fan of this whole generation, in particular Robin Williams and George Carlin. It was this golden age, and represented a shift in stand-up comedy — I wanted to chronicle that."

Zoglin said he's nostalgic for a time when stand-ups were changing the comedy business. "It seemed like such an exciting time for stand-up comedy," said Zoglin. "And looking back, I was surprised that nobody ever did a book pulling it all together as an era."

It looks as though he's had the last laugh.

Richard Zoglin will read from "Comedy at the Edge: How Stand-Up in the 1970s Changed America" in a free reading at Free Bird Books (123 Columbia St. at Kent Street in the Columbia Street Waterfront District). Free. For information, call (718) 643-8484. — Adam Rathe

ART

Hot shots

Ladies Lotto won't be selling scratch-off tickets, but if you're looking to find photography from local artists, stop by the March 1 opening of their "31 Under 31: Young Women in Art Photography" exhibit, and you'll hit the jackpot.

"Ladies Lotto is a social networking group, but we like to get involved with the community," said Anna Blakar, the group's founder. "There's a need for more shows that focus on the ... talent of women."

So Blakar teamed up with Matt Maust, the owner of Sound Fix Lounge, and Jon Feinstein from the Humble Arts Foundation to arrange the show, which will feature artists like Mary Mattingly and Amy Elkins (whose "Kylie, Brooklyn, NY, 2007" is pictured), and will run at Third Ward in Bushwick. "It's a benefit for the Olympia night, which will feature complimentary 10 Craft rum drinks, music from DJ 24/Out and a dance party."

"31 Under 31: Young Women in Art Photography" opens at 7 p.m. on March 1 at Third Ward (195 Morgan Ave. at Stagg Street in Bushwick). Free. For information, call (718) 715-4961. — Adam Rathe

BOOKS

Music notes

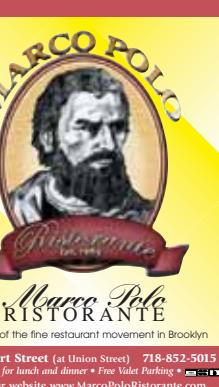
"People are getting bored of rock shows," Paul Mazar (pictured), author of the new book "What It Is: What It Is," told GO Brooklyn. "I'm excited by the idea of having a show be a place where different mediums are represented. A variety show is what I've envisioned."

And that's exactly what he's got. On Wednesday, Feb. 13 at Sound Fix Lounge in Williamsburg for his book party, The book, a collection of Matt Maust's poetry and prose and images created by Matt Maust (bassist in The Cold War Kids rock band), had been two years in the making. "It's rock 'n' roll tunes like Grateful Dead's 'Lipstick Traces.' And adding to the variety of the evening, Chas Pagan and Matty Charles performed live music while poet Derrick Brown read from his own work.

"I don't know if it's some type of panic disorder, but people are getting bored of rock shows," Mazar said. "It's like when you eat the same thing in a specific way," said Mazar, a Williamsburg resident. So the book is "my perception of the word, my surroundings and my life."

"What It Is: What It Is" (\$15, Write Bloody Publishing) is available at www.writebloody.com — Adam Rathe

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Challah back girls

Midwood's new kosher cooking school hosts classes in sushi, vegetable carving and more

By C.W. Thompson
for The Brooklyn Paper

In a recent Tuesday night, a cooking class in a new Midwood culinary school had nine women and one man in the kitchen to learn how to make challah baus. Each was eager to learn the proper braiding technique as taught by the instructor. Some had flour on their faces and sweaters, but all struggled equally to learn the folding technique, who wants to braid four strips?" asked the teacher, Sarah Kassai. "Or should we do six?"

The workshop was lively, as Kassai's teaching style encouraged discussion. Conversations about baking issues flared up: "Is the dough too dry or too yeast? Can I replace the sugar with honey?" And interspersed with these questions were inquiries about the Jewish kosher tradition.

Unusual for a cooking class? Yes. But the course was being held at the Center for Kosher Culinary Arts, a new school dedicated to all things kosher. "What about raisins?" asked Kassai. "We use them!"

"Don't use raisins in Europe," one attendee replied, "so I don't use them."

Kassai later sliced off an egg-sized chunk of dough and passed it around.

"We had the space," said Elka. "In New York, space is everything. We also had the customer base and the infrastructure, and we saw a need for a kosher cooking school."

In January, the school ramped up the course load, renovated the large one-room space, and found themselves needing to rent. They brought in Jesse Blonder as the director and a co-owner, and since October, what they describe as New York's first, full-scale kosher cooking school has been in operation.

"We wanted to find something we

DINING

The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts is located at 161 4th Avenue, between avenues J and K in Midwood. For a class schedule and more information, call 718-242-2442 or visit the Web site at www.happyhomepage.com/kosherculinaryarts.

were both interested in," said the mother. "So we came to see if the instructor has any. The way she does the yeast is new to me."

The Sochets discovered the classes through the housewares store because the school was a happy find. "I owned it for 15 years by myself and Elka. Then, over the years, they had held cake-decorating classes in their store, but when the upstairs space became available, the Sochets rented it and moved the classes there."

"We had the space," said Elka. "In New York, space is everything. We also had the customer base and the infrastructure, and we saw a need for a kosher cooking school."

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Twisting by the shul: Sarah Kassai (center) instructs Sarah (left) and Esther Sochet at the Center for Kosher Culinary Arts.

"We're kosher, but anybody can participate," said Elka. "It's kind of an open appeal."

"Everything's kosher, but not everything's Jewish," explained Blonder. "We have traditional Jewish foods; it's an element. And I work in professional chefs from around the city and country that specialize in different things. I explain what the guidelines are and [the chefs and I] work around that."

The Sochets are Food Network veterans: James Parker of Virginia and Ray Duey of California, who taught classes in fruit and vegetable carving. Indeed, they're so popular, students are coming from Canada to attend the chef's next courses, said Blonder.

The center offers a variety of classes: French, Italian, Spanish tapas, and even sushi. Others are designed to teach Jewish cooking, such as matzah, matzah baking and cooking for Passover.

Although a professional-level course is being developed, it is still a recreational school, with the most popular classes being cake-decorating, fruit garnishing and bread-making by commercial bakers. The school also offers instruction in gluten-free cooking and preparing for diabetes.

"The menus that we've offered have been from cuisines all around the world," said Elka. "Our regular clients now are pretty sophisticated."

Blonder, who was raised in nearby Manhattan Beach and is a non-Orthodox Jew, developed the curriculum in tandem with some chefs and teachers, too. He was working as an apprentice at the Culinary Center of New York until he answered the Sochets' ad on Craigslist.

"It seemed like a unique opportunity," said Blonder. "I would have the chance to have a kitchen, which in a restaurant takes years before you run your own kitchen. I'm working with food alongside business and marketing. It was a more complete opportunity, and that's why it appealed to me."

Blonder said that people from the community — both Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews — make up the majority of the attendees.

"In the Jewish community, people tend to be certain tremendous amount," she said. "But when you're in a restaurant, it takes years before you run your own kitchen. It's really pulls on the need to prepare and present food."

Which brings us to Esther Sochet's interest in challah-making. "You never know what God has in store for you," she said, referring to the potential of one day baking for children of her own.

A finer diner

ulan and Smith Street gourmands.

"It's been crazy," Spero Katchis, owner of the New St. Clair Restaurant, said GO Brooklyn as he worked the register and answered a question on Feb. 25, the first day that the Cobble Hill stalwart was back in business. After a five-month break, the diner opened its doors under the watchful eye of Kateshi (who also owns the Carroll Gardens' Cleopatra Smith on Smith Street), and on its first day, it was indeed swamped.

Open from 6 a.m. to midnight daily, the restaurant serves over 300 items ranging from soufflés and pancakes to French toast, hash, veggie or buffalo. Greek spinach pie and a five-vegetable stir-fry, covering its bases with both reg-

ular and Smith Street gourmands.

The space has been given a modern makeover. The bar and counter are clean lines and white. Upscale touches are offered Shiraz and Champagne — by the glass or bottle — and a menu of fruit-and-yogurt smoothies, should appeal to the neighborhood's burlies and families.

The New St. Clair Restaurant (292 Atlantic Ave., at Smith Street in Cobble Hill) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. F train to Bergen Street. Entries: \$5.45-\$23.95. The restaurant is open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. For information, call (718) 424-3741.

— Linnea Covington



The Brooklyn Paper / Jeff Liptzin

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BREAKING 
CHEWS 

It's one small segue for man, but one giant leap for the borough's dining scene. Peter Scalfani (Bar Toto, Luce) had his first taste of his latest venture, **Bar Tano** (457 Third Ave., at Ninth Street in Gowanus), a 12-seat bottle that is serving food and drink seven days a week, with brunch and late night bar hours on the weekends.

But why leap over Fourth Avenue, which logic would deem the next bouldering leap to fall in the creeping bistro-and-Bugaboo horde?

"We're pioneers," Scalfani told GO Brooklyn, over plastic glasses of Merlot and bites of pizza, two nights before the restaurant's Feb. 7 opening. "We're going to anchor this neighborhood."

Keeping in mind that Third Avenue doesn't draw the same foot traffic that the neighborhood's other streets do, Scalfani said he will be keeping everything on his menu — small plates of Italian food, pizzas and paninis — under \$15.

And as for the future of the block, which right now boasts a tire shop, a deli, and an overall dingy strip, Scalfani said, "More will come. Something a bit more appealing than what's here."

While Williamsburg is generally a late-to-wake neighborhood (most brunch places don't get crowded until

til around 1 p.m.), with the arrival of **El Beit** (158 Bedford Ave., Street in Williamsburg) a new high-end coffee shop, perhaps locals will find themselves awake and properly caffeinated more regularly. Using a Clover, an \$11,000 coffee machine that jangles like a garage band, El Beit is less bohemian than the neighborhood stalwarts like **Verba Cafe** (218 Bedford Ave., at North Fifth Street in Williamsburg), echoing the sentiments of most of the city's favorite coffee joints. **Le Grumpy** (193 Meserole Ave., at Diamond Street in Greenpoint), that day's the so-so coffee shop number are numbered in North Brooklyn.

Chef Allison Robicelli is thinking big. "I want to make this the ultimate Brooklyn restaurant," she said, talking about **Aura** (8305 Third Ave., at 83rd Street in Bay Ridge), a tapas bar she opened earlier this month. A Bay Ridge native, Robicelli has done time in tony Manhattan kitchens and as a high-end caterer, but decided to come back to the old neighborhood to serve what she calls "Brooklyn fusion" cuisine. With African, Indian and Asian influences, the small plates at Aura — including dishes like green tea-poached pears and Merlot-brined chorizo — are meant to capture the international flavor of the borough.

But onto every plate a little rain must fall. This week we said goodbye to **Biscuit BBQ and Cocotte** in Park Slope, and **Sorrel** in Prospect Heights, while, in Brooklyn Heights, **Amundsen** will close on March 16, after 70 years in business. Amundsen's owner Peter Byrns told GO Brooklyn, "I am retiring," and said that a Midwestern chain restaurant will be going into the space, though he did not name the chain. Neighborhood preservationists, along with state Senate candidate Daniel Squadron, are currently campaigning to save the neon "lobster sign" that has been a local icon.

Get a hot dining tip? Drop us a line at GOBrooklyn/BrooklynPaper.com.

— Adam Ratner and Linnea Covington

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— Tina Barry, The Brooklyn Paper

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Oud to joy

Billyburg falafel purveyor trades hummus for Arabic harmonies

By Jessanne Collins
for The Brooklyn Paper

On an unseasonably warm Wednesday night in February, the oud to Najeeb's Place was proposed after letting in the fresh air, the sound of Graham Avenue traffic and a dimly lit crowd hungry for falafel sandwiches and falafel sandwiches. The shop's proprietor, Nabil Shaheen, in a flannel shirt and backwards baseball cap, greeted his customers one by one, often with a hearty handclasp and a smile. He signed off with good-natured ribbing. He knew many of them by name.

Shaheen has met some of his closest friends — "the crew of the neighborhood" — here in the shop. And they're going to miss him when he leaves: After three years in business, Shaheen will be selling Najeeb's in March to an associate full-time on mutual passion grounds. After all, Najeeb's has never been only about the food.

"This place goes beyond falafel," Shaheen GO Brooklyn.

Customers old and new will have one more chance to experience what he means on Wednesday, March 5, when Shaheen performs as part of the Brooklyn Maqam Arab Music Festival. The month-long series of free concerts and events, sponsored by the Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), will feature about 100 musicians and groups performing an array of Middle Eastern musical traditions from folk and classical to contemporary.

Kay Turner, the director of BAC Folk Arts and organizer of the program, said that after 9-11, a number of venues across the city stopped featuring Arabic music programming. She sees the festival as a way to boost the Arabic music scene and to introduce new audiences to the varied music traditions of the Middle East.

"Najib has a special place in



Farewell concert: Before selling Najeeb's Place, oudman Nabil Shaheen will perform "Oud-Off I: Oud and Qawwah," with Bassam Saba, on March 5 at his Williamsburg restaurant.

the festival as a wonderful oud player, maker and someone who really understands the instrument," said Turner.

The event may be a special occasion, but to Shaheen, it's business as usual. On any given day, when he's not busily preparing orders or catching up with friends, Shaheen can often be found plucking an oud, one of the stringed instruments that line the shop's walls. Gourd-shaped and flat-faced, the oud

has ancient origins on the Arabian peninsula and Shaheen, widely known as "the oud man," makes and plays them. He also teaches private lessons and in special programs at New York University.

The oud's fretless strings produce quarter tones, those that would fall between the black and white keys on a piano.

"It sounds terrible, it's like eating a half-fried egg with a lot of oil in it," Shaheen said with his customary humor. He's referring to the oud's microtonal notes, which are common to Arabic musical traditions but sound off to Westerners.

Nabil thinks he's found the oud is the "greatest stringed instrument by far. It's the father of the lute, mandolin and guitar. It has great sound quality and endurance."

Shaheen, who was born in Haifa, Israel and came to New York to attend college in 1967, comes from a long lineage of oud players. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather all played. His grandfather, also named Najib, was a poet, den-

tist, church cantor and instrument maker.

"I was 8 or 9 years old, and I was working with him," Shaheen said. "I told myself that someday I'm going to make these instruments."

Today he not only makes and restores them, he also frequently performs at concert halls and educational venues with an ensemble that includes his brother, the world-renowned oud and violin virtuoso, Simon Shaheen. In addition to classical chamber performances, they play fusion music, combining African, Turkish, Indian or jazz influences.

"And honey," Shaheen said, "we're good! Not only the falafel is good."

Of course, the falafel — a blend of spices and chickpeas fried into crisp patties — isn't just "good." Shaheen will argue it's "the best ever," and he has the testimonials to support his claim.

"I can't count the days in a row one time, until he said I wasn't allowed to come anymore," said Nora White, who lives in the neighborhood and says the best falafel in the world." A letter Shaheen displays in the shop window, from a self-proclaimed falafel connoisseur, carries the sentiment, "Your falafels are extraordinary creations, completely superior to any falafel I've tasted on this continent."

Falafels don't just get to be extraordinary by themselves. Shaheen has always taken the quality of his food and the cleanliness of his kitchen, seriously. At the same time, he's easy-going for a businessman, showing little concern for marketing: the shop doesn't even have a sign.

He attributes this to having fallen into the business by accident. In his free time, he was visiting friends on Graham Avenue who sent him across the street to a donut shop. "They said, 'Some of your

MUSIC

Nabil Shaheen will perform at 7 p.m. on March 5 at Najeeb's Place (374 Graham Ave. at Skillman Avenue in Williamsburg) with Bassam Saba in "Oud-Off I: Oud and Qawwah." The show is free. Call (718) 383-8333 or visit www.brooklynarts.org.

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Alessandra Puggioni, MD
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Hardening of the arteries, called atherosclerosis, occurs when cholesterol and fat deposits build up over time. This causes a blood vessel to narrow and stiffen, restricting blood flow. While atherosclerosis can happen in any blood vessel in the body, it is most harmful in the carotid arteries in the neck, which feed blood to the brain. If the brain does not get a constant amount of blood, this can lead to a loss of function in part of the brain – otherwise known as a stroke. Some of the

first signs of a stroke are sudden weakness, numbness, and inability to speak. A stroke can be damaging and potentially fatal.

Fortunately, some basic lifestyle changes can reduce your risk of stroke and hardening of the arteries. Smoking is one of the biggest risk factors. Quitting smoking is the simplest way to reduce your chance of stroke or a heart attack. Other important steps include controlling your blood pressure and lowering your cholesterol level. This can be done through exercise, a healthy diet, and maintaining a reasonable weight.

Patients who are already at high risk of stroke because of advanced carotid artery disease will most likely need direct medical intervention.

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While this procedure is not right for every patient, it can have several advantages. No general anesthesia is needed, reducing the risk of postoperative complications. The procedure typically requires a shorter hospital stay and recovery time, and it may be a better option for certain high-risk patients.

At Maimonides, we offer carotid screening and other tests to determine a patient's stroke risk. If further action is needed, we work with patients to devise a treatment plan best suited to their needs.

Take the necessary steps to reduce your risk of atherosclerosis and stroke. If your doctor recommends that you see a vascular specialist, please contact me at (718) 283-7957 so we can discuss what options are right for you.



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Photo by Michael S. Smith

Put up yer dukes: At Harbor Fitness in Park Slope, Michelle Rodriguez puts her skills to the test with instructor Mikhail Kipnis in "Fight Club" class.

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Bring your workout to new heights with an "Aerial Yoga" class at Espana-Streb Trapeze Academy. "Aerial Yoga" begins with traditional yoga "asanas" (poses) on the floor and then moves to the trapeze.

"It's about moving though space and eliminating the transitions," said Editha Diaz-Durante, Sarah's teacher. "Not only does it allow to relax your mind, but the class will utilize your whole body as a base of support while building muscle strength. Find inner peace off the ground while improving your balance," she said.

"Aerial Yoga" is offered Saturdays at noon and 1:30 pm or Mondays at 7 pm by reservation only at Streb Laboratory for Action Mechanics (121 4th Avenue, between 9th and 10th Streets, Williamsburg). Each 90-minute class costs \$15. For more information, call (718) 384-6491 or visit www.streb.org.

HARBOR FITNESS CENTER

So you always wanted to be in "Fight Club" but you can't afford it? Harbor Fitness Center's version of the club, "Fight Club" class, the instructor is padded from head to toe, so you can practice brawling with a real person.

Stephanie Heywood said that the members "love the 'Fight Club' class, because it takes the skills and moves they have learned in kickboxing and puts them in action." Participants take turns with the teacher for one-on-one instruction while the others practice with the punching bags. This class works out your entire body and helps to increase your coordination.

"Fight Club" is offered from 9 to 10 am on Wednesdays at Harbor Fitness Center (191 15th St. between Fourth and Fifth Avenues) or at 7 pm on Tuesdays at Eastern Athletic Club (17 Eastern Pkwy. at Underhill Avenue, (718) 789-4600). For \$25 you can use any of the clubs' facilities for the day; monthly membership is \$170. For more information, visit www.harborfitness.com.



Photo by Michael S. Smith

Step, step, hi-YAH! At Eastern Athletic Club in Brooklyn Heights, dance-inspired workouts include "Capoeira," an ancient Brazilian form of martial arts, demonstrated by instructor Antonio Jacobs.

heavy on dance-inspired workouts including classes in "Capoeira," an ancient Brazilian form of martial arts, and "Nia Technique," which fuses ballet, capoeira, and dance.

"We think that the Brooklyn residents love to move," said Aisha Cowan, fitness director of the club. "The more dance classes we offer, the more we get them a cardiovascular workout."

But don't be fooled. Although these exercises look like you're just dancing on your body. So, much like trying out a new move on the dance floor, it's smart to take it easy

during your first two visits. "Capoeira" is offered at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays and "Nia Technique" is offered at 10:15 am on Saturdays at Eastern Athletic Club (17 Eastern Pkwy. at Underhill Avenue, (718) 789-4600). For \$25 you can use any of the clubs' facilities for the day; monthly membership is \$170. For more information, visit www.easternathleticclubs.com.

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12 DAYS...

Continued from page 2

THEATERS Brooklyn College Theater: "The 12 Days of Christmas" 7 p.m. "Me Out" \$12, \$10 seniors. \$5 Brooklyn College students. 7:30 pm. Gerardsh Theater, 200虞光路, Brooklyn, 11204. **CONCERT:** St. Ann's Warehouse presents "Essential Elements" a concert with John Zorn and band. \$30. 8 pm. Water St. (718) 254-0775.

FIRESIDE Brooklyn Museum Arts Exchange presents a new performance and discussion series with work by Bill Viola, David Hammons, David Hammons and Faye Driscoll. \$15. \$10 students. 7 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway, Fort Greene. (718) 632-0018.

THE BRICK: presents "Notes from Underworld" a reading of the cult science fiction novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky. \$15. 8 pm. 575 Metropolitan Ave. (212) 552-3101.

OTHER First Saturday: Art Features at the Brooklyn Museum. Event features a music, dance and art-making classes to celebrate the first Saturday of the month. Highlights include Colombian music with Lupita, a live performance by Cecilia Viscaya read at 4 pm; Ballet Folklorico performs from 6:30 to 7 pm; "The 12 Days of Christmas" 7 pm. "Me Out" 7 pm; "Fever" Rising" (2005) 8 pm. "Notes from Underworld" 8 to 11 pm; 200 Eastern Parkway. Call (718) 632-0001 for more information. **Free.**

BAD SAG Brooklyn Museum Store hosts a bag sale. 9:30 am. 283 Grand Ave. (718) 535-4000.

GREENHOUSE Art Features exhibits to raise awareness of the environmental effects of the modern apartment has been transformed into a space for art, events, service, and lifestyle choices. 11 am to 6 pm. 100 Grand Ave. (718) 535-4000. www.greenhousebrooklyn.com. **Free.**

RIGGING WORKSHOP: Espa/STREB presents a two-day workshop for performers rigging hardware for performers and riggers. 11 am to 6 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 535-4000.

STRESS RELIEF: Humble Farm Wellness Center hosts a workshop to teach stress reduction techniques. 10 am to 2 pm. 917 Eighth Avenue. Reservations required. (718) 535-4000.

CURATOR TALK: Patricia Anchell, Associate Curator of Photography at Brooklyn Museum presents "Goodbye Coney Island?" 58, \$4 adults. 1 pm. Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 535-4000.

ART TALK: Brooklyn Museum Drawing Space offers a talk by its curators on "Nature Voices: Contemporary Art." 6 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 535 Van Brunt St. (718) 875-2098. **Free.**

RECEPTION: Brooklyn Society of Architects presents "The Skyscraper and the City" 6 pm to 9 pm. 168 Seventh St. (718) 535-4000.

RECEPTION: Arts Foundation, in collaboration with Lefeldt Lotto, presents "31 Under 31: The Best in Art Photography." 7 pm to 9 pm; after

party 9 pm to midnight. The Gallery at Third Ward, 195 Morgan Ave. (718) 715-4961. **Free.**

WEIRD Brooklyn Center for Kosher Culinary Arts hosts a class in what every wine drinker needs to know. \$40. 8:30 pm to 10 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway, Coney Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.

SUN, MARCH 2

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

ICE SKATING: at Prospect Park's Wollman Rink. \$3 kids and seniors. \$6 skaters rental. Sessions 10 am to 1 pm. Enter 2 pm to 6 pm; 7 pm to 10 pm. Enter 10 pm to 11 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway, Ocean Avenue. (718) 965-8999.

PUBLIC SKATING: at Aviator Sports, 58, \$10 seniors. 10 am to 1 pm. Enter 2 pm to 3 pm to 6:30 pm. Hangar 5, Floyd Bennett Field. (718) 625-0050. **Free.**

PERFORMANCE

ARAB MUSIC FEST: Brooklyn Arts Council hosts an Arab music festival with concerts, symposiums and workshops. "Taste of the East" 1 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway, Ocean Avenue. (718) 421-2222.

FILM FESTIVAL: BAM/Cinematek presents "The Best of the African Diaspora Film Festival." Today. "Africa's Last Stand" 1 pm. "The Last Man" 4 pm. Pre-concert talk at 3:30 pm. Old First Reformed Church, 729 Carroll St. (718) 623-8133.

MON, MARCH 3

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MUSIC: Using silent black and white film from the Scottish shorts archive, the "Tinland Tapes" fuses Celtic music with silent film. 7 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway, Ocean Avenue. (718) 759-7500.

CONCERT: The Dessoff Choirs present "In Sound and Word," an exploration of the human voice. 7 pm. Brooklyn Center for Kosher Culinary Arts, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 623-8133.

OPERA: "La Traviata." 3 pm. See Sat., March 1.

DANCE: Absurd and Beyond Dance presents "Dance in Concert" 1 pm. See Sat., March 1.

MUSIC REVUE: 10 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 623-8133.

OTHER

FLEA MARKET: at 5th Finchbar Center, 9 am to 1 pm. 1825 Bath Ave. (718) 236-2000.

PLATFORM: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture presents Leader Lisei Burns in a talk on "How to Repair Your Credit." 3 pm. 55th Street. (718) 623-8133.

MOVIE: Moviehouse presents "The Royal Tenenbaums" 7 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway, Ocean Avenue. (718) 759-7500.

RECEPTION: Brooklyn Art Foundation, in collaboration with Lefeldt Lotto, presents "31 Under 31: The Best in Art Photography." 7 pm to 9 pm; after

Black History Month events

WEDS, FEB 27

DAYLONG CELEBRATION: Stepping Stone Residence, a program for people with psychiatric disabilities, celebrates Black History Month with "Speaking It Out: The Power of Our Voices." 10 am to 1 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway, Ocean Avenue. (718) 855-4035. **Free.**

STORYTELLING: St. John's Church, 200虞光路, Brooklyn, 11204. **Free.**

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MON, MARCH 3

BRONX HISTORICAL SOCIETY: presents opening of exhibit "Re-thinking Community Development: The Bronx's Role in the African American Renaissance." 1 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 623-8133.

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PS15 will not be shared



Parents at PS 15, on Sullivan Street in Red Hook, have won their fight against a charter school inside their building.

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The city is backtracking on its plan to wedge a charter school inside a half-full Red Hook school, now saying that it is not needed after all.

The announcement comes after parents, teachers and even the widow of the beloved former principal of PS 15, an elementary school on Sullivan Street, were outraged that the school would have to close classrooms to the PAVE Academy.

In a statement, the city's Department of Education will meet with school officials and staff in May to gain acceptance for PAVE, which might still land in PS 15.

“It looks like they’re trying to correct the way they were about to do something, something unnecessary.

Parents don’t want the charter school in PS 15 because they say the loss of space jeopardizes the “A” grade that the school just earned on its city report card.

The kids are able to get on a lot of the things they have now,” said Vicki LaSalle, a parent who was gathering signatures on her anti-charter school petition earlier this month.

School Principal Peggy Wynn-Madison echoed that concern last week, telling the Brooklyn Paper that a small school would increase class size — small class size was one of the main reasons for the school’s success on the report card, she added.

The city says any concern about class size is not valid. PS 15 — also known as the Dahn School, in memory of its slain principal — has an “A” is only 54 percent and has been declining.

The Department of Education says such statistics indicate that there’s room for the 88-student PAVE Academy to take over four classrooms and one administrative room in September — and then two more classrooms in 2008.

“We’re not going to affect on class size” at PS 15, said Melody Meyer, a PAVE spokeswoman.

The class size might stay the same, but the loss of space is still a burden.

Currently, students go to different rooms for different subjects like math and social studies, giving teachers free time and a quiet space for prep work. They’ll lose that downtime in a shared school.

Sharing the building with the new charter school for two years might be an improvement to PS 15’s teachers, but the city says, “not much.”

“The proposal gives PS 15 two great schools to choose from where they previously had one school,” Meyer told The Brooklyn Paper.

“The school over the summer is a faint echo of last year’s breakdowns,” she said, sitting the Khalil Gibran International Academy — the city’s first Arabic language and culture school. In a Park Slope neighborhood, the school’s administrators complained that their under-enrollment school also did not have the space to accommodate a new middle school.

In the end, the battle prevailed, and the Gibran Academy was eventually housed in a Boerum Hill middle- and high-school complex. Parents and educators there accepted the Gibran Academy after the city agreed to provide some long-sought amenities — a bit of the space that may be happening now at PS 15.

The PAVE Academy — the name stands for Perseverance, Achievement, Vision and Excellent Character — will start with just a kindergarten and a first grade in 2008, but will eventually be a K-8 school.

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10-4 Saturday
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LEGAL NOTICE

IF YOU RECEIVED AN IMPARTIAL HEARING ORDER CONCERNING A SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT THAT REQUIRED THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO TAKE ACTION OR MAKE A PAYMENT, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO PAYMENT AND/OR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES THROUGH A PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

A settlement has been proposed in *L.V. et al. v. New York City Department of Education, et al.*, No. 03 Civ. 9917 (S.D.N.Y.), a class action lawsuit concerning whether the New York City Department of Education (“DOE”) failed to fully and timely take the actions required by impartial hearing officers’ orders concerning students with disabilities. The proposed settlement has two parts. The first part requires the DOE to fully and timely implement orders in the future at specified rates over an extended period of time to achieve a maximum percentage of orders implemented, and also creates a more streamlined system for enforcing any future orders that are not implemented in a timely fashion. The second part allows certain Class Members to receive compensatory relief relating to orders that were not implemented in the past.

WHO IS INCLUDED?

Anyone who has obtained a favorable order by an impartial Hearing Officer against the DOE or a stipulation of settlement placed on the record at an impartial hearing with the DOE and fails or failed to obtain full and timely implementation of such order or settlement is a Class Member if:

- (1) their order is dated between December 13, 2000 and January 31, 2008 (the “Compensatory Relief Subclass”);
- (2) their order is dated on or after December 13, 2003 (the “Injunctive Relief Subclass”).

You may be a member of both subclasses. Members of the Compensatory Relief Subclass have certain rights to opt out of that subclass.

All Class Members have the right to hear and/or object regarding the proposed settlement. The Court will hold a Settlement Fairness Hearing on April 10, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., or such adjourned date and time as the Court may set, to consider whether to approve the proposed settlement. If the proposed settlement is approved, Class Members will not be part of any other lawsuit if the defendant does not file a legal complaint in that case except that (1) people who received orders dated between December 13, 2003 and January 31, 2008 may properly opt out to keep their right to pursue individual litigation and (2) people who receive orders dated on or after February 1, 2008 will have the right to seek relief concerning their individual orders pursuant to a streamlined procedure that is part of the proposed settlement.

You can obtain the documents relating to the proposed settlement at www.hearingordersettlement.com.

2008
Editor
of the Year
Nominee

February 23/March 1, 2008

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The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

PARENT

Being a good mom means more than not being bad

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

Novelist Ayelet Waldman caught a lot of flack when she wrote in the New York Times that she loves her husband, writes Michael Chabon, more than she loves her children. It’s a weird thing (no man loves much Smartman’s work), but that’s what the poster man for bad mommies everywhere is doing.

The media, especially the blogosphere, has latched onto Waldman’s honest (if strange) assertion, and Waldman became the poster man for bad mommies everywhere.

It’s a can of Britney, the queen of mommies you never want to have. She takes drugs around her kids, and drives her pick-up truck with her son on her lap without a seat belt.

She’s guilty of one egregious act of bad mommyness after another. She’s also, apparently, a good mom. And what is a “good” mom and how do we know whether you are or aren’t? There are some objective standards, right?

The problem is that what’s hard to quantify. That’s why hard-line bloggers, like Britney, baking cookies and sewing homemade Halloween costumes have become misplaced markers of mommy achievement.

Baking cookies has always been one of those good mom measurements. Do you know your oven? And from scratch or mix?

And selling cookies gets (honest) browny points.

What about when a mom needs some meditation-time for herself? A night with the girls and some margaritas? Never. I just sit there and do what my therapist says.

Will Teen Spirit tell her therapist about the fact of all this failure and guilt is to be a good mom? And against the impossible standard of the Good Mother, but against the fun-house-mirror image? Bad Mother. By the way, we’re not talking about the Bad Mother makes it easier for us to live with what we are.

So that’s the standard now? Bad mom knows, we can live up to it? It’s a good idea, but can it really be that Waldman believes that it’s good enough to just stay one step above lotsy mommies like Britney, Ayelet Waldman?

man, or Andrea Yates, who murdered her five children in a bath tub.

But being “better than bad” is not the same as being good. And what is a “good” mom and how do we know whether you are or aren’t? There are some objective standards, right?

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Wants to be a “Mommie”?

• And what about all those hours you spend in the basement of the Museum of Natural History with your kids?

• And what about those endless hours in the basement of the Children’s Museum of Manhattan?

• Doesn’t that stuff count for something? Ask your kid.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of formation of Making Change, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on Oct. 18, 2007. Office location: Kings County, SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it shall be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: Making Change, LLC, 109 St. Marks Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11217. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

State of North Carolina, County of Cumberland

In the General Court of Justice District Court Division, File No: 07JT 23

Re: [REDACTED] Baptist, A [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Petitioner, vs.

[REDACTED] Oil Company, Inc. Notice of service by publication.

Take Notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above captioned action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Termination of Parental Rights upon the grounds that for a continuous period

more than six months Respondent has failed to have any contact with the minor child.

You are required to appear before the court to plead no later than the 10th day of [REDACTED] to answer your petition to do, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for relief sought.

This 29th day of February, 2008.

Sherry Miller, Attorney for the Plaintiff: Miller, King & Close, 108 Hay Street,

Fayetteville, NC 28302

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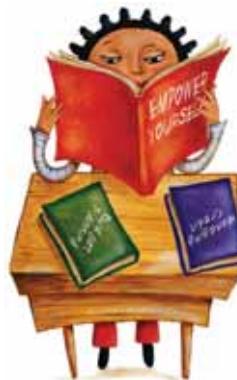


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February 23/March 1, 2008

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City puts 'Y' in Armory

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

— The Prospekt Park YMCA will operate the lavishly restored Armory in Park Slope, revealed city officials on Tuesday.

The YMCA will turn the 113-year-old building, which spans two city blocks between 8th and 9th Aves., 15th and 16th Streets, into an adult fitness center and sports facility that will host teen and after-school activities, a day camp, and community events, operating between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. every day.

The Y will generate revenue through donations, sponsorships, events and memberships.

But when exactly the Armory will open for business is unclear. Though the city has selected the YMCA as its winning bidder, negotiations are ongoing, and city officials were reluctant to set a deadline.

Given the city's lack of options with former deadlines that have been for the best.

After all, the city had promised to select a private operator for the facility in 2006.

For the past few months, negotiations have been taking place inside the Armory and have doubled over its \$16-million renovation. Many have questioned why the selection process was taking so long.

When The Brooklyn Paper revealed last month that the YMCA was one of two finalists, area residents were pleased.



Eighth Avenue's newly restored Armory will be operated by the YMCA.

“The YMCA is probably the best fit,” said Tom Miskel, a member of the Park Slope Civic Council’s Armory Committee. “The YMCA is directed toward sports programs for young people. The Y fits that [mission] better than anyone else.”

The Department of Homeless Services,

which is administering the bidding process and will maintain a 70-bed women’s shelter in the building, pushed back the process at least twice.

For its part, the YMCA is “anxious to get started,” said Kevin Shermach, a spokesman for the non-profit.

Nancy Nancy is gone gone

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

“Gentrification happened, and the landlords want to keep up,” she said.

She said

“Nancy Nancy — Fifth Avenue’s favorite novelty shop — is the latest casualty of over-the-top real-estate prices in Park Slope.”

“The landlord did not renew

the lease because he’s selling

the building,” said Nancy

Sorkow, who opened the store

between President and Clinton

streets, 10 years ago. “He’s also

doubling the rent.”

So, come May, Shoppers will

have to go elsewhere for their

AK-47s, Evil Minger dolls,

their cat-in-magazine and their

Jesus dolls (“With gliding ac-

tion!”).

The closure of Nancy Nancy

is the latest in a series of

changes on Fifth Avenue, which was

“pretty run down and de-

serted” when Sorkow opened

shop, she said.

As a result, the bell has also

tollled for Biscuit BBQ, ROMP

Cocotte, Beso, Hollywood

Video and even the Donut Cafe.

“Let’s hope that the vacant

spaces are filled with new

businesses,” said Sorkow, calling

himself “Raw” on the mes-

sage board, brooklynian.com.

“We need 24-7 access to more

ATM machines with homeless

people standing in front of them.”

Sorkow said she plans to con-

tinue selling penis-shaped pepper

mines and other goodies via her

Web site, [www.nancynancy.com](http://nancynancy.com).

Five Avenue novelty shop Nancy Nancy is closing.

Newark cop chase ends on Smith St.

No, it’s not a movie shoot. A police chase that began in Newark, New Jersey, on Friday night really did occur — and ended in a dramatic collision on Smith Street. According to Newark cops, an officer who had stopped a suspected car thief had stopped a suspect who had stolen a gun from the thief, who then took off and headed across the river, with cops in pursuit. After the two vehicles, the stolen sedan ended up driving the wrong way down Smith Street and smashed into a van at Pacific Street before police finally lassoed the driver. The driver of the van suffered minor injuries, cops said.



Fire in the hole?

Navy will check if there is any ammo in them thar bay

The Department of Defense will investigate whether live ammunition is still sitting in Gravesend Bay more than 50 years after it was accidentally dumped there — a key win for opponents of a city plan to re-use the dredged material from the Gowanus Canal.

The federal agreement to scan Naval archives just a month after Assemblyman William Colón (D-Bensonhurst) dredged up the story of a barge that capsized in the bay in 1954, reportedly sending more than 200 tons of live ammunition to the bottom.

Colón, Rep. Vito J. Lopez (D-Brownsville) and Assemblyman

Bill Colton (D-Bay Ridge) asked the Department of Defense to investigate.

“My office has already assembled a team, including our Naval historian, explosive ordnance experts, and the Army Corps of Engineers, dredging contractors who actively collect this data,” the Navy’s As-

sistant Secretary BJ Penn said this week.

The waste-transfer station is a central element in Mayor Bloomberg’s garbage plan. Colón, Colton and Lopez agreed last year.

A spokesman for the Department of Sanitation said that the city would take the results of the investigation into account.

Meanwhile, a noted environmental lawyer has joined Colón’s crusade to stop the garage from starting.

Attorney Joel Kupferman and Colton have called on the federal government to declare Gravesend Bay a “Superfund Site,” citing over 30 years of illegal incineration at the defunct South Brooklyn incinerator.

Any success on that front would result in a mandatory clean-up of the site, which would further delay the construction of the waste transfer station — possibly long enough to force the city to find a new site.

“Nothing short of an enormous environmental assessment and remediation program can help undo the damage that an illegal incinerator has done to Gravesend Bay for over 30 years,” said Colón. — Rubenstein



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Pols claim that 'Victory' is at hand!

New stats show ER units need the beleaguered hospital

By Loren Bonner
for The Brooklyn Paper

New statistics from the city Fire Department show that the closing of Victory Memorial Hospital's emergency room to provide health in Bay Ridge, a group of lawmakers said last week.

Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge), state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) and

Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) said the closest emergency rooms to Victory Memorial are already overcrowded — a direct contradiction of data the state Department of Health used when it decided to close the emergency room.

The Department of Health says its data shows that two nearby hospitals, Lutheran

Medical Center and Maimonides Medical Center, have the capacity to receive ambulances that are currently going to Victory.

But the FDNY records come to a different conclusion. From Oct. 1 to Dec. 19, 2007 — the study period — Maimonides, Lutheran, and other neighboring facilities declared themselves unable to receive new patients for hundreds of hours.

Maimonides was "on diversion" approximately 1,100 hours, while Lutheran was "on diversion" nearly 700 hours.

"If these hospitals are out of room and Victory is closed, there is no other option but to wait," said Gentile. "DOH can't play a game of roulette with people's lives."

Lawmakers have been argu-

ing that Bay Ridge residents rely heavily on the emergency room at Victory Memorial. The group sued the state last year, demanding that the ER remain open.

"Local hospitals are already overburdened and will have a difficult time caring for an additional 17,000 patients who use

Victory's ER every year," said Fossella.

But Claudia Hutton, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health, disputed the FDNY data. "The Fire Department doesn't use the same information as we do in calculating diversion," she said.

Hutton said the Department of Health's numbers are more accurate because it counts directly on the hospital. She also said the state would continue with its plan to shutter Victory.

"We see Victory closing in June," she said.

But Victory's supporters refuse to give in.

"This compelling new data...makes the strongest case possible for keeping the ER open at the Victory site," said Fossella.



The Ridge Three — Gentile, Golden and Fossella — back Victory.

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GATEWAY CHURCH IS A CHURCH OF COMMUNITY, RELATIONSHIPS, CONNECTING

In the last several months, Gateway and its related ministries has...

- Provided a full Thanksgiving dinner for 100 people.
- Given \$2,000.00 to P.S. 169 for socks, gloves and hats for its students who are in need.
- Given \$1,000.00 worth of gift cards to the adolescents of Mercy first Foster Care Agency.
- Provided \$3,000.00 worth of toys for needy families from the Sunset Park/Bay Ridge community at Christmas time.
- Providing \$10,000.00 for Medgar Evers College in Central Brooklyn.

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS FOR GATEWAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES AT 8:30 AM AND 11:00 AM
Also available

Overcomers – 12 Step Program for those struggling with addictive behavior. Overcomers meets every Wednesday, 8:00 pm in the lower level of 257 Bay Ridge Ave. All are welcome.

Alpha II – Discussion group - Topic: "A Life Worth Living". The group also discusses such topics as, new purpose, new attitude, new friendship, new confidence, new ambition, new generosity. Alpha meets every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Healing Rooms – "And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude, and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick." Matt 14:14. Jesus is still moved with compassion for those who are sick. Come for prayer.

Divine Secrets of the Yahweh Sisterhood – women mentoring women into growth, maturity, courage and strength. This group meets approximately once a month.

The Real Goodfellow – men gathering together for comradery, faith, encouragement and lots of laughs.

For further information on these groups and others call, email or visit our website,



Rev. Roger McPhail
Senior Pastor

City puts the 'Y' in Slope Armory

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

It's official — the Prospect Park YMCA will operate the largely renovated Armory in Park Slope, revealed city officials on Tuesday.

The YMCA will turn the 113-year-old Eighth Avenue building into an adult fitness center and a community that will include teen and after-school activities, a day camp, and community meetings.

Spanning nearly an entire block between 14th and 15th streets, the Armory will be open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The Y will generate revenue through donations, sponsorships, events and membership fees.

But when exactly the Armory will open remains to be seen. While the city selected the YMCA as its "swimming bidder," negotiations are ongoing and city officials were reluctant to set a deadline. Given the city's lack of success with former franchises, that might be for the best.

After all, the city had promised to select a private operator for the Armory by 2006.

For the past few months, neighbors have been sneaking peeks into the Armory and have drooled over its \$16-million renovation. Many have questioned why the selection process was taking so long.

towner. Before his murder, he lived in a building on Fifth Avenue near 76th Street.

According to cops, Diaz had checked into the hotel the day before with a woman. He was not wearing a shirt, but his woman was seated on surveillance video as she left the hotel hours after allegedly killing Diaz.

On Jan. 15, cops arrested Pamela Hanson, 20, and charged her with murder, grand larceny, second-degree burglary and criminal possession of a knife.

She claimed at her Feb. 20 arraignment that she acted in self-defense.

The manager of the hotel could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

A local community leader, who asked not to be identified, said neighbors were shocked by the recent spate of suspicious deaths.

"I've never heard of a place as a short-term place to stay as the Best Western is a temporary outfit. You have people who have family members who stay there."

"Certainly having two events like this in a short period of time would lead to some concern," she added.

The Brooklyn Paper photo by J. E. Dunn



The YMCA will operate the Park Slope Armory.

When The Brooklyn Paper revealed earlier this month that the YMCA was one of two finalists, area residents were pleased.

"The YMCA is probably the best fit," said Tom Miskel, a member of the Park Slope Civic Council's Arts Committee. "Thisopoulos is directed toward sports programs for younger people. The Y fits that [mission] better than anyone else."

The Department of Homeless Services, which is administering the bidding process and will maintain a 70-bed women's shelter in the building, pushed back the process a few weeks.

For its part, the YMCA is "anxious to get started," said Kevin Sherman, a spokesman for the non-profit.

The YMCA will operate the Park Slope Armory.